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## OPINION METER

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Inos agrees to Fund settlement conference. **PAGE 2**  
US ambassador enlisted to help repatriate Chinese patient. **PAGE 3**

## Impeachment panel not starting from scratch

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said yesterday that the Special Committee on Impeachment that will review, prepare a report, and make recommendations on a resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for 18 allegations of corruption, neglect, and felony will have at least seven members, including at least two from the governor-aligned minority bloc. The process, however, will not be as lengthy as it was during the previous Legislature when dozens of individuals and documents had to be subpoenaed for evidence-gathering.

"The work of the Impeachment Committee in the House is very important because the committee report would become evidence during the trial at the Senate," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan), who will be serving on the impeachment panel again, said the committee work "will be a continuation of the process that was

**» Resolution now has 16 sponsors**

**See PANEL on Page 4**



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A man walks past a newly unveiled signage in front of the legislative building on Capital Hill. All eyes are again on the Legislature as a soon-to-be appointed Special Committee on Impeachment reviews and reports on a resolution to impeach Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for recommendation to the full House. Because there is now enough votes to impeach the governor in the House, the process is likely to move to the Senate for trial.

## Senate starts preparing for impeachment trial

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTERS

With more than enough House members likely to vote "yes" to their sponsored resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, the Senate is now preparing for the trial.

Senate President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) tasked Vice President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) to head a panel that will review the rules to be used in the

event the impeachment process moves to the Senate.

Torres said yesterday he's been appointed chairman on Rules and Procedure Committee, and has started reviewing rules in other states and jurisdictions pertaining to an impeachment trial.

Because such process is unprecedented in CNMI history, the Senate needs all the preparations required to hold a fair and impartial trial.

The governor himself is preparing for

his defense.

"It will be at that appropriate time and forum that he will respond to the articles lodged against him," the administration earlier said. It's not known yet whether the governor would have private counsels or would be aided by the Office of the Attorney General.

The impeachment resolution that the 16-member House leadership pre-filed listed 18 articles relating to corruption, neglect, and felony.

## Less take-home pay for employees as Social Security tax back to 6.2%

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Many working-class people in the CNMI will now have less take-home pay as the Social Security tax rate for employees is back to the historical level 6.2 percent per payroll this month because the temporary 2-percent tax cut was not extended beyond Dec. 31. The previous employee tax rate for Social Security was 4.2 percent as part of a tax holiday

meant to stimulate the economy by giving workers more take-home pay.

For employees earning the CNMI's minimum wage of \$5.55 an hour, this 2 percent is equivalent to \$8.88 per payroll if they are working 80 hours biweekly.

This means \$8.88 per payroll or \$17.76 a month that should have gone to buying food items, gas for car, or children's school needs, will go toward taxes.

"We could have also used that 2 percent to help pay for our utility bills," a

government employee told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. The mother of six from Dandan said her household can still manage even with the end of the 2 percent tax holiday but she said she feels sorry for those who have just started paying Social Security and those earning much less.

A father of three, also from Dandan, separately said while there's less take-home pay starting this month, that amount will still come back to taxpayers like him when he starts receiving Social

Security benefits.

"It will still be there for you in the long-run; after all, it was meant to be temporary relief," he said.

Employers' share for Social Security has remained at 6.2 percent.

The Internal revenue Service under the U.S. Department of the Treasury said in a notice that employers should implement the 6.2 percent employee social security tax rate "as soon as possible, but not later

**See LESS on Page 4**



Local

Inos agrees to Fund settlement conference

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos yesterday agreed to have the CNMI government enter into a conference for a global settlement in connection with a class lawsuit filed in federal court by retiree Betty Johnson.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances

M. Tydingco-Gatewood announced in court that assistant attorney general Gilbert Birnrich spoke with Inos about the latter's willingness to work for a global settlement in good faith.

Tydingco-Gatewood expressed appreciation to Inos for agreeing to have the CNMI government enter into a settlement conference.

The judge said she will talk

to Hawaii bankruptcy judge Robert Faris today, Wednesday, to preside over the settlement conference.

Tydingco-Gatewood said Faris will call a status conference with the parties in the lawsuit.

Attorney Margery S. Bronster, one of the counsels for Johnson, brought up about a pending motion for settlement

conference that NMI Retirement Fund trustee *ad litem* Joseph C. Razzano filed, shortly after the parties completed their arguments in the CNMI government's motion to dismiss Johnson's lawsuit for lack of jurisdiction.

Razzano told the court that if the CNMI government does not want a settlement, the court should issue an order to set a

status conference for settlement.

At this juncture, Tydingco-Gatewood noted that the Fund issue is emotional to everyone as the current retirees are in similar situation with all active employees who want to get out from the Fund program.

The judge said if the CNMI government's policymakers have listened to the presentation and arguments at yesterday's hearing, they may change their mind about the settlement issue.

Tydingco-Gatewood asked the CNMI government's counsels to contact either Gov. Benigno R. Fitial or Inos right away.

Birnrich stood up and told the court that if it is private agency, it is simple, but that it is different in dealing with the government where there are certain protocols to follow.

Birnrich said he is not aware where Fitial or Inos were at the time. The judge, however, in-

sisted and ordered a 20-minute recess to allow Birnrich to call the CNMI leaders.

"Just asked them," Tydingco-Gatewood told the government lawyer.

After the 20-minute recess, the judge called all the lawyers to her chamber.

After almost an hour, the lawyers came out from the chamber.

Tydingco-Gatewood also came out and announced Birnrich's conversation with Inos.

With respect to the motion to dismiss, Tydingco-Gatewood stated that she is inclined to deny the motion.

In an interview with reporters after the hearing, Birnrich said he called Inos on the phone as Fitial delegated the Fund rehabilitation matter to Inos.

Birnrich said the judge asked if the CNMI government will be willing to have a settlement conference so they went to their client—the CNMI government.

Birnrich said specifically they asked Inos, gave him advice, and told him about the situation.

"He agreed to enter into a settlement conference," the lawyer said.

On the judge oral ruling on the motion to dismiss, Birnrich said obviously they're disappointed because they believe they have a very strong case on the law.

"But we respect the judge's decision," he said.

In a separate interview, Johnson's counsel Margery S. Bronster said basically the judge think that it is important for the parties to get together to talk about to resolve this issue so the Fund beneficiaries' rights are protected.

"So she (Tydingco-Gatewood) got everybody to agree that we will all come back to Saipan with a federal judge bankruptcy judge Faris who will help the parties talk to each other about how to try to make sure that we can come to an amicable resolution," Bronster said.

Bronster said they agreed to talk about settlement because the Fund's current situation is "pretty scary."

"What the government had said, what the trustee *ad litem*'s report said, is that there's not gonna be any money to pay benefits after next March," she said.

Bronster said the CNMI government has obligations to pay, but the government has to come up with a plan on how to make those payments.

"If the money is paid and the government does not come up with some new money, then all the retirees will be looking for their checks and none will be in the mail after next March of 2014. And that's a terrifying thing for so many people," Bronster said.

Ogumoro vows more arrests not only for theft, but also drugs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Department of Public Safety acting commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro has vowed that more arrests will be coming as a result of the Thief Apprehension Select Coalition's relentless operations.

Ogumoro said TASC members will arrest more people not only engaging in theft cases, but

as well those involved in trafficking illegal drugs.

"We're working very hard," said Ogumoro, citing TASC's recent arrests.

He said during a recent display at DPS of recovered stolen items, about 40 people showed up to check if one of those were their stolen property.

Ogumoro said he has to check with the officers in charge of the display as to how

many of the 40 people actually were able to identify their property and got them back.

Ogumoro announced last month that he reactivated TASC as cases of burglary, arson, robbery, and theft on the islands have reached epidemic proportions.

TASC then arrested several people for theft, burglary, receiving stolen goods, and selling illegal drugs.

Ogumoro cited that from Jan. 1, 2012 to Sept. 30, 2012, a total of 1,108 incidents of burglary, robbery, and theft, plus 12 arson cases have been reported to the police.

TASC was created in 2002 as a special group that focused on solving burglary, theft, and robbery cases. It was credited for 107 arrests between July 28 and Dec. 31, 2002. Of those arrests, 104 resulted in convictions.

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# US ambassador enlisted to help repatriate Chinese patient

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

After receiving no response from the kin of an overstaying patient and inaction from the Chinese Association in the CNMI, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has turned to the U.S. Ambassador to the People's Republic of China for the immediate repatriation of Chinese citizen Jing Zhi Quiang, who has been confined at the Commonwealth Health Center for the past three years.

Corporation CEO Juan N.

Babauta formally sent a correspondence to U.S. Ambassador to China Gary F. Locke appealing for assistance in contacting the Chinese government to take custody of Quiang.

Quiang was admitted at the hospital on Feb. 23, 2010 after he suffered self-inflicted injuries at the airport. He was treated at CHC but has become comatose since then. Babauta was designated guardian of the patient after none of Quiang's kin was contacted to take custody. Quiang, 49, hurt himself when he was about to be

deported in 2010.

"I am appealing to you for assistance in contacting the People's Republic of China to take custody of Mr. Quiang because we have been caring for him at the cost of the CNMI taxpayers and we have simply cannot afford to care for him any longer," stated Babauta's recent letter to the ambassador.

Besides transfer of custody request, the CEO also asked the assistance of the ambassador in requesting the Chinese government to reimburse CHC for the

medical expenses of Quiang.

The corporation has spent approximately \$1.5 million for Quiang's medical services including his emergency treatment, hospital room, doctors, nurses, medicine, and other supplies.

"We have tried to contact the Chinese Association in the CNMI, the Chinese Consular Office, the patient's family, and his previous employers to assist the hospital in repatriating Mr. Quiang back to China but to no avail," disclosed Babauta to the ambassador.

The CEO added that CHC

has been caring for the patient for almost three years but the hospital is in a critical financial situation at this time and it cannot continue to care for the patient without payment for his medical services.

"We think we have done way and above our humanitarian hand to keep him alive and it is time to reach out to the People's Republic of China to care for Mr. Quiang and to return him to his family in China," he added.

Babauta is hopeful on the favorable response from the am-

bassador.

Compared to the then-Department of Public Health that received \$36 million in local appropriation, CHCC is operating as an independent agency that relies heavily on its own revenues and collection since October 2011.

Due to scarce resources, the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid cited the hospital for operating without the necessary supplies, medical equipment, and lack of medical personnel—all due to limited funds.

# Filmmaker hopes to recreate US invasion of Saipan

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
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REPORTER

A renowned filmmaker, writer, and producer who put together the first expeditions in search of the *Titanic* is hoping to carry on his exploration venture, this time in the Northern Marianas.

Michael Harris, who is renowned for his documentary films *Deadly Fathoms*, *Search for Titanic*, and *In Search of Noah's Ark*, arrived on Saipan Monday night to begin what would be the preliminary research work on the possibility of recreating into a film a significant component of the islands' history.

"I'm very interested on Saipan because of the marine invasion in June of 1944," he said in an interview following the general membership meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

During his three-week stay on island, Harris would conduct research focusing on the Naval Construction Battalions, popularly known as Seabees, which were organized to build bases and bulldoze and pave roadways and airstrips tied with the nation's combat operations during the war.

## Guam National Guard soldiers prepare to deploy

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The Guam Army National Guard is preparing to send 600 soldiers to Afghanistan.

The *Pacific Daily News* reports the I-294th Infantry Regiment soldiers will deploy in the next few months. It will be one of the largest deployments ever for the territory's Guard.

Soldiers were at the Guam National Guard Readiness Center on Friday updating their financial, family and health information on file. This will ensure their families get the support they need while they're away.

The soldiers will undergo three months of training on the mainland before spending nine months in Afghanistan.



CLARISSA V. DAVID  
Expedition leader Michael Harris, right, gestures as he briefly discussed his three-week visit to Saipan as Rotary president Pete Shilling, left, looks on during Tuesday's meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

He said his interest was piqued by the 1944 film *The Fighting Seabees* starring John Wayne.

"I'm here to see if we can try to recreate what the Seabees did and how they cleared the airfields and extended the runway

later," Harris told Rotarians during his brief remarks.

According to Harris, one of the top IMAX producers from Canada is "very interested" to turn his work into a film which hopefully would bring publicity for the islands.

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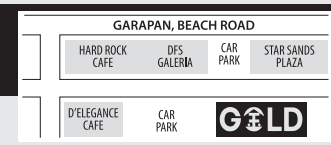
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# Senate, Maratita, Yumul file amended complaint over \$190.8M PPA

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The Senate and Rep. Janet U. Maratita (IR-Saipan) and Sen. Ray A. Yumul (IR-Saipan) have amended their lawsuit against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Saipan Development LLC over an alleged illegal \$190.8-million power purchase agreement deal.

Attorney Ramon K. Quichocho, counsel for plaintiffs Senate, Maratita and Yumul, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's recent public announcement that the controversial power purchase agreement is void "is a step in the right direction."

Quichocho said they, however, want a court-ordered permanent injunction to stop the agreement.

Quichocho filed in Superior Court yesterday a second amended complaint against Gov. Fitial and co-defendants. The lawyer said the filing of the amended complaint is in accordance with associate judge David A. Wiseman's order partially granting and partially denying defendants' motions to dismiss the lawsuit.

In the amended complaint, Quichocho basically took out all the paragraphs/phrases/words that Wiseman struck.

Quichocho also added the supporting facts for counts 1 and 3 that the judge found was lacking in the first amended complaint.

The lawyer noted, among other things, in the second amended complaint, that that, on Dec. 31, 2012, attorney general Joey San Nicolas issued an opinion, stating that Gov. Fitial did not possess the authority, pursuant to Executive Order 2012-07, to enter into the power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC.

On Jan. 4, 2013, San Nicolas wrote a letter to Saipan Development LLC expressing his opinion that the power purchase agreement and the related agreements were void *ab initio* (from the beginning), because the agreements "were executed in a manner contrary to Commonwealth law."

Quichocho said as of the filing

of this second amended complaint, his clients have not received any information that the power purchase agreement and the related agreements have been canceled.

The plaintiffs asked the court to declare that the 25-year power purchase agreement is "unconstitutional, illegal, unconscionable, and unjust, and therefore, cancelled."

## LESS

From Page 1

than Feb. 15, 2013."

"After implementing the new 6.2-percent rate, employers should make an adjustment in a subsequent pay period to correct any under-withholding of social security tax as soon as possible, but not later than March 31, 2013," IRS said in its January 2013 Notice 1036.

Social Security and Medicare are covered by the Federal Insurance Contribution Act, or FICA, taxes that are deducted from the payroll of working-class people.

Employers are required to withhold Social Security taxes from wages paid to an employee during the year and must also match the tax withheld from the employee's wages.

The employer FICA tax rate remains at 7.65 percent, a combination of a 6.2 percent Social Security tax and a 1.45 percent Medicare tax, said private firm Ernst & Young in its 2013 annual letter of taxation developments affecting business on CNMI.

In addition, the Social Security wage base limit increases to \$113,700 for 2013.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said in his latest newsletter confirmed that the Social Security rate went up from 4.2 percent to 6.2

percent.

He said the U.S. Congress authorized a reduced 4.2 percent Social Security contribution rate for employees in December 2010 in the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act or P.L. 111-312.

"The reduction was a response to the recession and intended to stimulate the economy by giving workers more take-home pay. The reduction was extended by the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-78) and again, through the end of 2012, by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act (P.L. 112-96)," he said.

But because no further extension has been enacted, the Social Security contribution rolls back to 6.2 percent effective Jan. 1, 2013.

"While the temporary reduction may have had a positive impact on the economy, it also meant that U.S. taxpayers will have to replace \$224 billion in lost revenue to the Social Security trust fund," he added.

Some Filipino workers under the Commonwealth-only worker program expressed relief that they are no longer required to pay FICA at least until the end of the transitional period on Dec. 31, 2014, so they would continue to have more take-home pay than they had when they were required to pay these federal taxes beginning in late 2011.

## Bicyclist sues driver of car that struck him

A man has filed a lawsuit against the driver of a car that allegedly struck him while he was driving a bicycle on Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa.

Patit Pabang Mondal, a Bangladeshi, sued Masatoshi Otsuka for reckless, careless, and negligent driving.

Mondal, through counsel Victorino DLG. Torres, asked the Superior Court to hold Otsuka liable for damages over his injuries and to his bicycle.

Torres stated in the complaint that, on Sept. 25, 2012, Mondal was riding his folding mountain bike south toward Payless Super Market on Beach Road.

Torres said a silver 2003 Toyota Camry driven by Otsuka suddenly exited the northern entrance/exit road from Payless and entered the ongoing traffic.

Otsuka's car directly struck Mondal, who was crossing the road.

Torres said Mondal was transported to the hospital where he was treated.

Torres said in the event that the defendant contends that he hit Mondal immediately after he entered the thorough traffic and assumed his appropriate lane, Otsuka is still negligent in that, among other things, he failed to keep a proper lookout and failed to obey traffic laws. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## Teachers planning nationwide strike in Solomon Islands

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (RNZI/PIR)—The Solomon Islands National Teachers Association is meeting on Thursday to discuss plans to stage a nation-wide strike.

The Association says the government has failed to address four key issues, such as giving promised pay rises, travel expenses and housing allowances and failing to remove officers from the Honiara City Council who are suspected of stealing money

from teachers' travel budget.

The President of the Teachers Association, Samson Faisi, says he hopes the strike threat will prompt the government to treat these matters seriously.

"My executive came in 2011 and in one incident last year, me and my general secretary we saw the Prime Minister and we also voiced these concerns then. And they promised us in front of his special secretariat they

will make sure that they must address these issues and then the year went pass and now we are in 2013, we would like to ensure that all these issues that have been long-standing issues, we must resonate positive feedback from the government."

Samson Faisi says if the government fails to respond positively to the notice for the strike, planned for later this month or early next month, he will call on other unions to join in.

## PANEL

From Page 1

already initiated in the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislature."

"The committee work should not be taken lightly. I have always been ready to work on the committee," he added.

### 16 sponsors

At the same time, the 26-page impeachment resolution now has 16 sponsors, with Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) signing off on it yesterday afternoon.

The number of sponsors to date is more than enough to impeach the governor because only at least 14 "yes" votes in the 20-member House are needed to impeach him and move the process to the Senate for trial.

Deleon Guerrero and 14 other members of the leadership signed and pre-filed House Resolution 18-2 within hours of their inaugural session on Monday. At the time, only Villagomez—among the 16 leadership members—didn't sign as sponsor of the resolution because he said he won't sign on anything he has not read yet.

"I read the resolution and I signed it (Tuesday afternoon)," Villagomez said.

Villagomez was among the nine who voted "yes" to the impeachment resolution last year. After majority of the voters removed most of the governor's candidates for the House in the Nov. 6 mid-term polls, a resolution to impeach

him is more than likely to pass this time around.

The Fitial administration itself said earlier that the governor recognizes he is up against a supermajority in the House, and "the number of cosponsors pretty much indicates that the process will move up to the Senate."

### Committee members

Deleon Guerrero said he won't be among the seven members of the new Impeachment Committee but as a speaker, he said he can always participate in its meetings.

He said among the members of the committee which he will officially appoint once House Resolution 18-2 is formally introduced are Tebuteb, Reps. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) and Chris Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan).

Sablan and Tebuteb were members of last year's impeachment panel, while Leon Guerrero will be on the panel for being chairman of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations.

The speaker said he will reach out to the governor-aligned minority bloc to have at least two of their members serve on the Impeachment Committee. Among the minority bloc members, Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) served on the previous impeachment panel, while Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) and House minority leader George Camacho (R-Saipan) are re-elected members. Rep. Richard Seman (R-Saipan) is a freshman lawmaker.

Santos, in a phone interview from

Guam, said yesterday she has not been approached by the leadership yet about the impeachment panel.

"If I would be requested, then I will consider it and not reject it right away. That's something for me to consider if they approach me," she said.

Deleon Guerrero said evidence gathered by the previous Impeachment Committee during the 17th Legislature will be used, along with evidence related to three new allegations included in the revived impeachment resolution.

These new allegations refer to the governor's failure to appoint a Department of Public Safety commissioner, a Department of Public Lands secretary, and a Department of Public Works secretary. Deleon Guerrero said the governor willfully and continuously ignores the law.

"These three allegations of neglect are straightforward; they're clear-cut. Up to this day, he has not appointed any of them for Senate consideration. Just like the other neglect allegations for failure to appoint a chief justice and members of the Civil Service Commission and Public Utilities Commission which are also clear-cut, the committee need not call in people because they're clear-cut," Deleon Guerrero said. Tebuteb echoed this.

Deleon Guerrero, along with most members of the House leadership, said since the Nov. 6 mid-term election, the term "public mandate" was often used to describe the public's overwhelming support for impeachment and that their

message was that "corruption, obstruction of justice, abuse of power, and the lack of transparency and accountability will not be tolerated." Deleon Guerrero is the main author of the defeated and new impeachment resolution.

Among the articles of impeachment are in connection with Fitial's use of a federal inmate temporarily taken out of prison to give him a massage at his house during the wee hours in January 2010, the award of an almost \$400,000 sole-source ARRA management contract to a former Cabinet official within days of resignation in 2010, failure to remove a former attorney general after it became clear that the AG used public funds and other resources for a political campaign or gathering, and the signing of a 25-year, \$190.8-million power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC.

Martin Sakisat, a private citizen, said this is not the right time to impeach the governor but rather a time to prioritize reviving the economy, fixing the healthcare system, lower power rates, and save the NMI Retirement Fund.

The House leadership said it is prioritizing all these issues as well.

Fitial is so far the only governor in CNMI history to be the subject of a pre-filed and/or introduced impeachment resolution.

### Tracing roots

The 16-member House leadership pushing for impeachment consists of so-called Independent Republicans and

members of the Covenant Party. Former speaker and lieutenant governor Diego Benavente and Sen. Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan) were among the brains of the IRs and the now coalition leadership in the House.

Benavente is also the first person to publicly call on the governor to step down long before the first impeachment resolution was prefiled last year.

Benavente, in an interview on Monday, said he, Reyes, and the rest of the coalition of Independent Republicans and Covenant Party members are glad to be able to take over the leadership to be able to do more to improve the CNMI.

Benavente said he and Reyes felt that to turn things around, they needed to approach individuals who would work together for the betterment of the CNMI and to make up the majority in the House.

"We went out and looked...for key individuals we thought could win and could have the guts to go against the governor because they would have to. And we couldn't fill the entire House with IRs. We're very grateful that Covenant candidates and the leadership of the Covenant Party felt the same way and so that together we called ourselves the opposition with the goal to take over the leadership. We're so happy we've accomplished what we set to begin with up to this point. It's the challenge of getting the leadership on these issues and improve our islands," he said.



# McDonald's presents donation from fundraising effort to KagES



CLARISSA V. DAVID

McDonald's Saipan general manager Marcia Ayuyu, second left, hands the ceremonial check to Kagman Elementary School principal Ruth Bigalbal Calvo, second right, during a brief presentation at McDonald's Chalan Laulau location yesterday. The donation came from the proceeds of the school's participation in the McTeacher's Night last month. Also in photo are vice principal Dominic Camacho and McDonald's Saipan's Mable Ayuyu.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

McDonald's Saipan yesterday presented Kagman Elementary School with a check donation, which is a percentage of the sales they made as part of the

## More than 1.3 million tourists visit Guam

**HAGATNA, Guam (AP)**—Guam's visitor industry had a banner year in 2012 with more than 1.3 million tourists visiting the island, according to the Guam Visitors Board.

Tourism officials said that is nearly a 13 percent increase over the previous year.

The *Pacific Daily New* ssaid Gov. Eddie Calvo gave his thanks while speaking Monday at the Guam Visitors Bureau general membership meeting at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort. The governor thanked the tourism industry's managers, workers and business stakeholders for working together to achieve such a stellar year for the island's visitor industry.

"You are the lifeblood of Guam's economy," Calvo said.

The governor's office said the last time Guam saw numbers that high was before the Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s.

The governor encouraged tourism industry stakeholders to continue working toward an even better year in the future. He said Guam's next goal is to welcome 1.5 million tourists. A five-year strategic plan that was prepared in 2007 set a goal of 1.53 million tourists by 2011, but that was not achieved.

The industry acknowledged that the upturn in visitors brings with it new challenges. For example, some hotels have had to turn guests away.

Calvo said he looks forward to the opening later this year of the upscale Dusit Thani Guam hotel. One or two hotels that have been dormant also are being renovated, he said.

One of the bureau's newly elected board members, Oscar Miyashita, said though even though "things are really looking bright," other challenges lie ahead.

McTeacher's Night program.

General manager Marcia E. Ayuyu, along with daughter and executive assistant Mable Ayuyu, handed the check to principal Ruth Bigalbal Calvo and vice principal Dominic Camacho in a brief ceremony at

the store's Chalan Laulau location yesterday.

The Home of the Blue Marlins was the first ever participant of the fundraising program created by the world's largest hamburger chain and launched in the Northern Marianas last December to assist public schools in meeting their immediate budgetary needs for student learning.

Calvo expressed their appreciation to the Ayuyus and McDonald's Saipan for allowing

them to take part in the McTeacher's Night last month.

She said that about 20 teachers wore the McDonald's apron and cap thrice a week for four weeks to take customer orders and serve food items as well as help in the drive-thru to raise funds to be used for a project that would be decided on by the teachers themselves.

Calvo disclosed, though, that they are looking at using the money for the school's playground project.

"The teachers had fun and enjoyed interacting with the customers which included students,

their parents, Education Commissioner Rita Sablan, board chair Herman Guerrero, Hopwood principal Jonas Barcinas, and other school principals, and other community members. It was an experience I don't think they'll ever forget," she said.

Calvo said that McTeacher's Night paved the way in building important partnership with their stakeholders, McDonald's, and the rest of the community, adding that they are already on the lookout for the next fundraising event.

Marcia Ayuyu revealed plans to host the McTeacher's Night at least annually, with all public schools in the CNMI to have a rotating schedule throughout the year.

"I give credit to the parents and students, especially the teachers who go beyond their responsibilities in an effort to help their respective schools. I encourage all McTeacher's Night participants to work hard so they can raise more funds for their needs," she said.

For her part, Mable Ayuyu said that the program is a great way to start they year, especially with the islands' challenging economy. She said the teachers' participation is a testament to their steadfast determination to foster the importance of education among the youth of the Commonwealth.

"Know that McDonald's will support education for years to come," added Mable Ayuyu.

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# Over 400 enroll on Day 1 of NMC Spring registration

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Over 400 students trooped to the Northern Marianas College on Monday to register for the new semester.

As of Monday, the institution reported a total of 442 full-time equivalent (FTE) students on the first day of weeklong registration period. The figure represents an increase of about 4.5 percent from the same time last year or in Spring 2012, when 423 FTE students enrolled by the first day of regular registration.

Enrollment for the Spring 2013 semester will continue until the end of this week, and the number of enrolled students is expected to rise throughout the week. Final enrollment numbers will be made available after registration for classes has passed.

FTE is calculated by taking the total number credits students have registered for and dividing that figure by 12 (minimum number needed to be a full-time student).

NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., said yesterday that the college continues to post strong enrollment numbers.

"While it is important that we look at the number of stu-



Northern Marianas College employee Jennifer Fejeran, right, assists Benito Lee during NMC's Spring 2013 registration. Registration for the Spring 2013 semester will continue until this Friday, Jan 18, 2013.

dents served under our credit programs, it is equally important that we look at the numbers served in our non-credit programs like the Community Development Institute and the Adult Basic Education Program," said Hart, adding that the college has served thousands of

individuals in these programs.

The president said there is no mistaking that NMC continues to play a central role in educating and training thousands of individuals each year, and this has been accomplished through the institution's academic programs and

other community programs that focus on training and development.

According to Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services, there are several factors that have contributed to the continued increase in enrollment.

"We continue to engage many

students through the College Access Challenge Grant Program like the Start Smart seminars, the Cash for College Workshops, and other activities," he said.

He also noted that the college is also stepping up its efforts to recruit adult students who have delayed college enrollment for one reason or another.

The CNMI Scholarship Office has also implemented new regulations requiring new scholarship applicants to attend NMC for their

first two years of college in order to receive financial assistance. The college also now offers the TEACH Grant, which provides scholarship funds to students pursuing a teaching career.

The college offers several degree programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (concentrations in elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospital-ity management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

## JKPL to offer ukulele class every Thursday

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, in partnership with instructor Larry Lee, is pleased to once again bring back and offer its popular after-school ukulele classes every Thursday from 4pm to 5pm, beginning Feb. 7 until March 28, 2013.

Two types of lessons will be taught—beginner and intermediate. Students who passed the Level 2 of Mr. Lee's previous ukulele class will be able to register for the intermediate class, while new students or those who wants to refresh their ukulele skills can register for the beginners class.

**Minimum age requirement:** Open to children 8 years or older and adults.

**Tuition:** \$50 (Eight Thursdays)—advance registration and payment is required

**Venue:** Joeten-Kiyu Public Library—COHL (Children of Our Homeland Center), Susupe

Registration is on a first-come, first-paid basis with a minimum enrollment of 15 and a maximum of 40 students.

Students must also provide their own ukuleles and a folder to hold music sheets (plastic sheet protectors and a three-ring binder are recommended). Lee will also be selling ukuleles. In addition, JKPL will loan ukuleles, but during class lessons only.

Parents/guardians must fill a liability waiver form on behalf of their participating children or adults for themselves and must adhere to all public library policies and procedures.

For more information, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe or call 235-7316 or 235-7322-23, fax 235-7550. (PR)

### Procurement And Supply CNMI Government

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**RFP NO.: RFP13-DEQ-059**  
Submission: February 05, 2013 Time: 2:00 p.m.

**"Development of a Training Program on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Construction General Permit, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for the Division Of Environmental Quality"**

The scope of work for this project will be available on or after **January 02, 2013** at the DEQ front desk or can be received electronically by e-mail request to [davidrosario@deq.gov.mp](mailto:davidrosario@deq.gov.mp)

A pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for **January 22, 2013 at 10:30 a.m., local time**, in the 2nd Floor DEQ Conference Room. Questions regarding this project may be faxed to Mr. David B. Rosario at (670) 664-8540 or by e-mail at [davidrosario@deq.gov.mp](mailto:davidrosario@deq.gov.mp) no later than the close of business, **January 25, 2013**.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference **is not available**, because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the commonwealth.

/s/ Frank M. Rabauliman  
Director, DEQ

/s/ Herman S. Sablan  
Director, P&S

### Procurement And Supply CNMI Government

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**RFP NO.: RFP13-DEQ-061**  
Submission: January 31, 2013 Time: 2:00 p.m.

**"Procurement Of Vessel For Marine Monitoring (Boston Whaler 17") For The Division Of Environmental Quality"**

The scope of work for this project will be available on after **January 02, 2013** at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive, during regular working hours.

All inquiries should be directed to **Mr. Frank M. Rabauliman**, Director, Division of Environmental Quality at telephone number (670) 664-8500 no later than the close of business, **January 22, 2013**.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference **is not available**, because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

/s/ Frank M. Rabauliman  
Director, DEQ

/s/ Herman S. Sablan  
Director, P&S

### The U.S. Navy INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE in the Mariana Islands Range Complex Airspace Draft EA/OEA

The U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment/Overseas Environmental Assessment (EA/OEA) to analyze potential environmental impacts from proposed modifications to military training airspace and sea space in the Mariana Islands Range Complex (MIRC).

**PROPOSED ACTION:**

The Proposed Action is to modify and extend existing military training airspace and sea space within the MIRC. This action is needed to provide a safer and more efficient training environment and to maintain military readiness.

The Navy analyzed three alternatives in the Draft EA/OEA: (1) No Action Alternative – current training activities; (2) Alternative 1 – modify and extend military airspace for public safety and training efficiency; and (3) Alternative 2 – modify and extend military airspace (similar to Alternative 1) and expand the sea space danger zone around Farallon de Medinilla from 10 nautical miles (nm) to 12 nm.

The Navy conducted a thorough assessment to determine the potential effects the Proposed Action and alternatives may have on environmental resources. The draft assessment indicates there would be no significant impact on the environment from proposed modifications to airspace and sea space.

**The Navy requests your input!**

- Visit [www.MIRCAirspaceEA.com](http://www.MIRCAirspaceEA.com) to review the Draft EA/OEA and provide comments
- Attend information sessions and provide comments
- Mail written comments to:  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific  
Attention: MIRC Airspace EA/OEA Project Manager  
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100  
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

**Public Open House Information Sessions 5 to 8 p.m.**

**Jan. 15, 2013**  
University of Guam  
Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building,  
Anthony Leon Guerrero Multi-Purpose Rm. 129  
Mangilao, Guam 96923

**Jan. 17, 2013**  
Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in  
Susupe  
Saipan, MP 96950

The Navy welcomes and appreciates your comments on the Draft EA/OEA. Comments must be postmarked or received by **Feb. 4, 2013**, for consideration in the Final EA/OEA.

**For more information, visit [www.MIRCAirspaceEA.com](http://www.MIRCAirspaceEA.com)**

## NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF

ARCTIC CIRCLE AIR CO.

### CALLED BY THE STOCKHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that, and in accordance with Article II, Section 3 and 4 of the By-Laws of Arctic Circle Air Co. (the "Corporation") and 4 CMC § 4392 (a) (2), a special meeting of the stockholders of the Corporation will be held on January 21, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Corporation's office located in the former Census Office on International Terminal Lane, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands for the following purpose:

To amend the Corporation's Article of Incorporation to increase the number of authorized Class A Common shares from 750,000 to 5,000,000.

The close of business on January 9, 2013 has been fixed as the record date for the determining stockholders entitled to receive notice of and vote at this meeting, or any adjournment thereof. Attendance of this special meeting by the shareholders of the Corporation is optional, and shareholders are invited but not required to attend.

Dated: January 9, 2013.

**BY ORDER OF ANTHONY PELLEGRINO,  
PRESIDENT OF THE CORPORATION**

MARIANAS LEGAL STRATEGY GROUP LLC  
MARCIA K. SCHULTZ, F0156  
Flametre Building, Capitol Hill  
PMB 323, Box 10001  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone No.: (670) 322-9991

Attorneys for Petitioner  
LAURA J. PETERKA

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
ENG ENG TEOH**

Deceased.

**PROBATE CASE NO. 12-0303-CV**

**NOTICE OF HEARING AND  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The Petition of Laura Jan Peterka seeking to be appointed as Administrator of the Estate of Eng Eng Teoh, deceased and for issuance of Letters of Administration has been set for hearing before the Superior Court on February 12, 2013 at 1:30 o'clock p.m., in Room 223A.

Any person who has any objection to the petition may file his or her objection with the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands at any time before the hearing, or may appear at the time set for hearing to present such objection or interest in the above-captioned matter.

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against the Estate of Eng Eng Teoh, deceased, that within sixty (60) days after the publication of this notice, they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and any claims not so presented shall be barred.

Dated December 28, 2012

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122  
THE LAW OFFICES OF  
MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL: (670) 234-6547  
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

<b>UNION BANK,</b> Plaintiff,	<b>CIVIL ACTION</b> <b>NO. 94-1046</b>
-v-	<b>FOURTEENTH</b> <b>AMENDED</b> <b>NOTICE OF SALE</b>
<b>JUAN L. EVANGELISTA,</b> Defendant.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Second Amended Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 2, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Tract 22845-19 (part of original Tract 22845-REM, A.H. 31), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2083/84, the original of which was recorded August 2, 1984, as document No. 84-1398 at the office of the Commonwealth Recorder, Saipan.

**Date, Time, and Place of Sale.** The sale will be held on Friday, January 25, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.** The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of December, 2012:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer



# Federal grants fund hiring of 68 public school teachers

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Public School System filled a significant number of teaching positions this school year thanks to the regular grants it receives from the federal government.

PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that a total of 68 teachers were successfully hired by PSS in school year 2012-2013 utilizing portions of the yearly consolidated

ed grants for PSS.

He said 38 teaching posts were filled by the system under the class size reduction item and 30 posts from the Title I item. Both funds are part of the \$8.4 million in consolidated grant approved for CNMI-PSS this fiscal year.

Thornburgh said it is his office's goal to hire as many as it could—using federal monies—to supplement the system's shortfall in the local side.

Besides the consolidated grant from the federal gov-

ernment, PSS also received a grant for its special education program where there are an estimated 40 teachers hired and paid by the grant.

According to PSS human resources director Coreen Palacios, there are only a little over 400 teachers employed by PSS on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Of the count, 68 are funded by consolidated grants, while the rest are being paid by other special grants and local appropriation for schools.

She said that due to lack of

funds for recruitment, many positions remain frozen including teachers, vice principals, and other posts. Though there are some job announcements made, these are for replacement positions only.

In a visit to her office, Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D, said PSS still needs teachers in every school to rectify the overcrowding and large class sizes in almost every school. However, she admitted that filling these needed positions

is impossible without certified funds for the purpose.

She cited as an example the large class sizes at Garapan Elementary School where there are an average of 32 students per classroom from Grades 3 to 6. The size, she claimed, is "unacceptable." Other schools, she said, had even larger class sizes due to lack of teachers.

"We ask our teachers to continue to work with the large class sizes because that's all we can do for now, unless we get an extra \$3 million (to hire

additional teachers)," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that despite the continuous increase in enrollment every year the schools' budget has been decreasing.

In previous school years, the system had over 500 or nearly 600 teachers in its 19 campuses compared to only a little over 400 teachers this school year.

With the new Legislature, Sablan is hopeful that a realistic budget will be formulated for PSS' operations.

## Parents of Oleai school students finally allowed access to cafeteria

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D, disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that parents of schoolchildren enrolled at Oleai Elementary School are now allowed access to the campus cafeteria.

She said the decision was reached by school management after considering all concerns raised by affected stakeholders.

The Oleai school had not permitted any parent from entering the cafeteria since Dec. 11, 2012, a day after two parents engaged in a heated argument in front of many students at the cafeteria.

The ban on parents' entry to the cafeteria affected many parents including Alan Villa, who has been assisting his daughter with special needs during breakfast in school.

He earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the action taken by the school was unfair and not cited in the school's handbook of rules and policies.

*Saipan Tribune* interviewed Villa last Jan. 8 after he was refused entry by schoolteachers in the cafeteria. The parent claimed that since the memorandum took effect, he had been "turned away and harassed" thrice by a few schoolteachers each time he attempted to see and assist his daughter during meal breaks.

The commissioner confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that she was informed by Oleai school principal Jacylene Parico that parents are now allowed entry to the cafeteria starting Jan. 7.

"Because of the concerns that were raised by a couple of parents, I called the Oleai principal and asked her about the incident. This incident was never reported to me because it was taken care of and addressed [in the school level]. Since the opening of school [after the holidays], parents can come in into the cafeteria," said Sablan.

The decision to allow parents access to the cafeteria is based on the condition that all

parents must adhere to all the procedures put in place by the school which requires them to just stay and sit with their own children, avoid roaming the place, and should not engage in any discussion with other parents or students inside.

The commissioner supported the decision of the Oleai school when it temporarily disallowed parents' entry to the cafeteria, citing the measure was taken to protect every student on campus.

According to Sablan, she was informed by the Oleai principal that parents were notified about the decision through an announcement posted outside the cafeteria. A meeting with the parents-

teachers-school association was also conducted where the same issue was discussed.

The school, it was learned, had also added staff to supervise students during meal breaks in

an effort to prevent same incident from happening.

The commissioner believes that when a parent cannot commit that he/she will behave properly inside the school

campus, these stakeholders then should not be allowed entry to the school to protect students and staff.

School administrators, she

added, have all the authority to decide for their schools when it comes to ensuring "security and protection" of all students on campus.

### JOB ANNOUNCEMENT for IMMEDIATE HIRING

#### Zoning Enforcement Officer

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Enforcement Officer. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**Duties and Responsibilities:** Conduct and supervise field surveys to inspect for, and verify compliance with, the Zoning Law and to collect land use information as instructed by the Zoning Administrator; Supervise and prepare notices of violation and other compliance documents for approval by the Zoning Administrator; Coordinate the field enforcement activities of the Zoning Officers, including serving violation notices, setting schedules, designing and implementation of information gathering procedures, and writing follow-up notices; Manage all aspects of issuing, tracking, and processing zoning violation notices, including conducting pre- and post-notice consultations, reviewing for compliance, tracking timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and preparing written recommendations and reports; Maintain and publish zoning violation fine guidelines and schedules as approved by the Zoning Administrator; Coordinate enforcement notice procedures, fine imposition, and abatement actions and provide weekly written status reports to the Zoning Administrator; Gather, research and coordinate property leasing and ownership information with government agencies; Perform other related duties as assigned.

**Minimum Requirements:** an Associate of Arts degree either in engineering, architecture, urban planning, environmental science, geography, economics, political science, natural science, business administration, or related field, plus a minimum of 2 years of progressive experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, construction management, business administration, public health and safety, environmental management, public policy, natural resource management, land management, regulatory and permitting enforcement or related field.

The salary is \$32,000, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Application submittals should be addressed to Therese T. Ogumoro, Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application For Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be downloaded from the publications page of the Zoning Board website. Send submittals to: E-mail: [Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp). FAX: 670-234-9666. US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA. Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

The deadline for application submittals is **January 23rd, 2013 at 4:30pm.**



We are currently seeking positive, friendly and outgoing individuals for the position of:

#### CLUBMATE

Applicants must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test). Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply. Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays. Must possess good verbal and written communication skills. Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skills a plus.

Applications are available at PIC's Security desk at the south end of the hotel. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Application deadline is Wednesday, January 23, 2013.

PIC Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer



### COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM- OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

#### INVITATION TO BID

##### ITB13-GOV-057

#### Repair of the Rota Health Center Fire Alarm and Sprinkler System

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, are soliciting sealed bids for Repair of the Rota Health Center Fire Alarm and Sprinkler System, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on January 10, 2013 at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Twenty Five Dollars (\$25.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office on Capitol Hill.

All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid package in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A site visit and pre-bid meeting will be held on Rota at the Rota Health Center on January 16, 2013. Participants are to meet promptly at the Rota Health Center, Director's Office at 10:00AM. Questions regarding this project may be submitted in writing to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia, CIP Project Manager, CIP Office, Capitol Hill, Saipan or via email to [balajadiaelizabeth@hotmail.com](mailto:balajadiaelizabeth@hotmail.com) or facsimile to (670) 664-2408 no later than January 24, 2013.

Sealed bids must be marked ITB13-GOV-057 Repair of the Rota Health Center Fire Alarm and Sprinkler System. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00AM local time, Friday, February 8, 2013. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00AM local time February 8, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@picom.com](mailto:procurement@picom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 8, 2013 and must be received no later than February 15, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 1:00PM local time, February 19, 2013. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open and read at 1:00PM local time on February 8, 2013.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the Procurement and Supply Director to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Government Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) Two Hundred Fifty dollars (\$250.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 150 calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, CNMI Lt. Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director  
Procurement and Supply, DOF



# GCA hosts USS *Frank Cable*

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Students of Grace Christian Academy and the sailors aboard the visiting USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40) yesterday participated in "friendship games" held at the school campus in Navy Hill.

GCA juniors and seniors played with and competed against the men and women of the Guam-based Emory S. Land-class submarine tender in volleyball and basketball matches.

Principal Marsha Owens said in an interview that this is their

first time to host a visiting U.S. naval ship, and it was initiated when USS *Frank Cable* chaplain John Miyahara communicated with GCA.

According to Owens, Miyahara got in touch with their school because of the endorsement of another chaplain from

a different naval ship that was unable to dock on Saipan due to bad weather.

"The USS *Frank Cable* said they would be more than willing to come to your campus and develop friendship among students," Owens told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said yesterday's event began with a motivational speech from Capt. Pete Hildreth, encouraging the students to do well in school.

Owens said the speech not only validated what they teach in school but also gave the young learners the option of going into the military.

Following yesterday's sports activities, GCA hosted a local-style luncheon for their guests.

On Monday, the USS *Frank Cable* hosted second to sixth graders, along with some parents and school staff, as they went to tour the vessel.

Owens said their joint activities will culminate today when the submarine crew plays host to GCA juniors and seniors aboard the ship.

Asked for their message to USS *Frank Cable*, Owens said, "We want to say thank you very much for serving our country and for the sacrifices that you've made. We pray God's blessings upon you."

The USS *Frank Cable*, which is on Saipan for its 10th visit, arrived last Thursday with approximately 500 officers and crew.

## CUC advises of power interruption this Saturday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled power interruption this coming Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013, from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

Affected areas include Garapan, Fishing Base—from the Horiguchi Bldg. south to the Microl intersection and laterals on Beach Road—traffic light—San Jose near Microl Corp.—and the CUC Wastewater Lift Stations (S-10, S-11, and S-12). The purpose of the interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow the CUC line crew to safely perform system maintenance by replacing two rotted power poles on Beach Road in front of Char's Store and the other on Llat St.

Water services may be affected in this area during the power interruption. However, all services should be restored after the power is re-energized.

Because of the scale of the work that will be performed, CUC is asking travelers to take alternative routes or to exercise caution when driving through affected areas. CUC apologizes for any inconvenience this power interruption may have on the community and will continue to work diligently to minimize future interruptions. (CUC)



CLARISSA V. DAVID

1. Grace Christian Academy students play basketball with the crew members of USS *Frank Cable* at the Navy Hill campus on Tuesday.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

A female student from Grace Christian Academy gets ready to serve the ball during yesterday's friendly volleyball match against the crewmembers of the USS *Frank Cable*.

## PSS teacher seeks to intervene in Johnson's suit vs Fund, Fitial

A Public School System teacher has asked the federal court to allow her to intervene into the lawsuit filed by retiree Betty Johnson against the NMI Retirement Fund, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, and other co-defendants.

Phyllis M. Ain requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI to direct the Fund administrator to comply with statutory duty to act on and approve employee withdrawal applications.

Ain opposed appointing Fund Trustee *ad litem* Joseph C. Razzano as permanent Fund receiver.

The teacher said that, on Sept. 15, 2012, she submitted her application to terminate Fund membership and filed for a refund of her employee

contributions.

Ain further directed the Fund to cease its deduction of employee contributions from her salary.

She said that, on Nov. 2, 2012, PSS, through a memorandum from its commissioner, announced that it would not stop employee deductions.

Ain said Johnson is a retiree seeking to require the government and the Fund to fulfill their promise of providing retiree benefits.

"As a retiree, Betty Johnson is no longer contributing a portion of her salary to the Fund," she said.

The teacher said while Johnson and the retirees like her, have a legitimate interest in insuring

that the Fund continues to pay out retirement benefits, neither Johnson nor any other retirees has any interest in insuring that current government employees are able to protect their own retirement by removing their employee contributions from the Defined Benefit Plan.

Ain said Razzano and the Fund administrator have announced their intent to refuse to act on and approve employee withdrawal applications.

Ain said in their single-minded pursuit of assisting retirees, the Fund and Razzano have ignored their obligations to those active employees who desire to end their contributions and plan for their own retirement. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 16, 2001

### Program eyed to curb growing delinquency

The Commonwealth Development Authority is eyeing the institution of a program that would help curb the increasing volume of delinquent borrowers in light of worsening economic condition on the island. CDA corporate division officials will sit down today to discuss possible ways to assist borrowers cope with their financial obligation amid hard economic times, according to Development Authority Board Chair John S. Tenorio. The government's major lending arm has been swamped with concerns on the increasing delinquency rate, as well as requests from borrowers for loan restructuring to allow them more time to settle their credit.

### NMIRF taps private firm to study new GHLI rates

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund will hire an accounting firm to conduct an actuarial study on the effect of new premium rate being paid by the retirees to the government health and life insurance. Vicente Camacho, Board Chair of the NMIRF, said the firm will also assess the effect of the planned transfer of retirees 65 years old and above who are currently GHLI members to the Medicare Program. A year after the increased premium contribution of its more than 5,000 members implemented last Jan. 1, 2000, the CNMI Group Health Insurance Program adjusted the rate to cover the retirees so as to cope with the skyrocketing cost of medical expenses.

Jan. 16, 2002

### CSC to renominate Sablan

The Civil Service Commission is planning to resubmit the nomination of Norbert S. Sablan as Personnel Officer before the end of the week. This was confirmed by Commission Board Chairman Vicente M. Sablan, who said they will probably send the renomination to the Senate before Friday this week. "The chair has been instructed by the Commission during its meeting last week to renominate Mr. Sablan as head of the Office of Personnel Management," he said. The nomination will be submitted to the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, which is chaired by Sen. David M. Cing.

### Japanese govt backs BB Administration

The Japan-CNMI Parliament League of Friendship discussed Sunday with newly installed officials of the Commonwealth government deeper partnerships that would foster social and economic growth for both Japan and the Northern Marianas. Association President Takao Jinnouchi and Japan-Asean Society Representative Director Tsueno Shimoji met with Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente at the Hyatt Regency-Saipan to discuss possible collaborations between the organization and the CNMI government. Jinnouchi said the meeting also gave both parties the opportunity to thresh out ways on how the association may help the Babauta-Benavente Administration deliver its promises to the people of the Northern Marianas.

Jan. 16, 2003

### Govt workers urged to cut work hours

Starting with the Department of Public Safety and the Office of Personnel Management, Gov. Juan N. Babauta kicked off his visit to all departments and agencies yesterday, as he tries to sell to government workers the idea of voluntarily reducing their work hours as a way to "share the pain" of an anticipated \$19-million budget shortfall. At this point, though, Babauta may not have to engage in hard-sell to convince the estimated 4,000 government workers to go with the plan. Most government workers that Saipan Tribune spoke to yesterday expressed support for the initiative, with some saying the move is high time. Babauta explained that he is opting, at least for now, for a voluntary five-hour per payday reduction in the work hour of each employee, as this is the most feasible step at the moment.

### OPM running out of patience over 'inaction' to SB 13-114

The Office of Personnel Management aired frustration over the slow-paced action on the pending legislation that was hoped to end the long-standing Public Law 13-1 controversy, saying the impasse is preventing the agency from fulfilling its responsibilities. Personnel Director Juan I. Tenorio expressed his disappointment to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, adding that if the Legislature fails to take action soon, he would have to take the necessary steps to implement PL 13-1.



# Wiseman junks Buckingham's *ex parte* motion

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman Monday denied former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham's request for a status conference in his criminal case.

Wiseman ruled that, as he

had stated previously, because Buckingham is still absent from the court's jurisdiction, he remains disentitled from having the court consider any motion or argument on his behalf.

Furthermore, the judge pointed out, without any extraordinary circumstances, until such times as Buckingham appears before the court or informs the court that he and the government have reached

a mutual agreement to revisit, modify and/or rescind the previous orders, the court will entertain no further motions from him.

"Further use of this court's time and resources in filings that

do not comport with these conditions shall not be tolerated," Wiseman said.

Attorney Brien Sers Nicholas, counsel for Buckingham, filed in Superior Court last week an

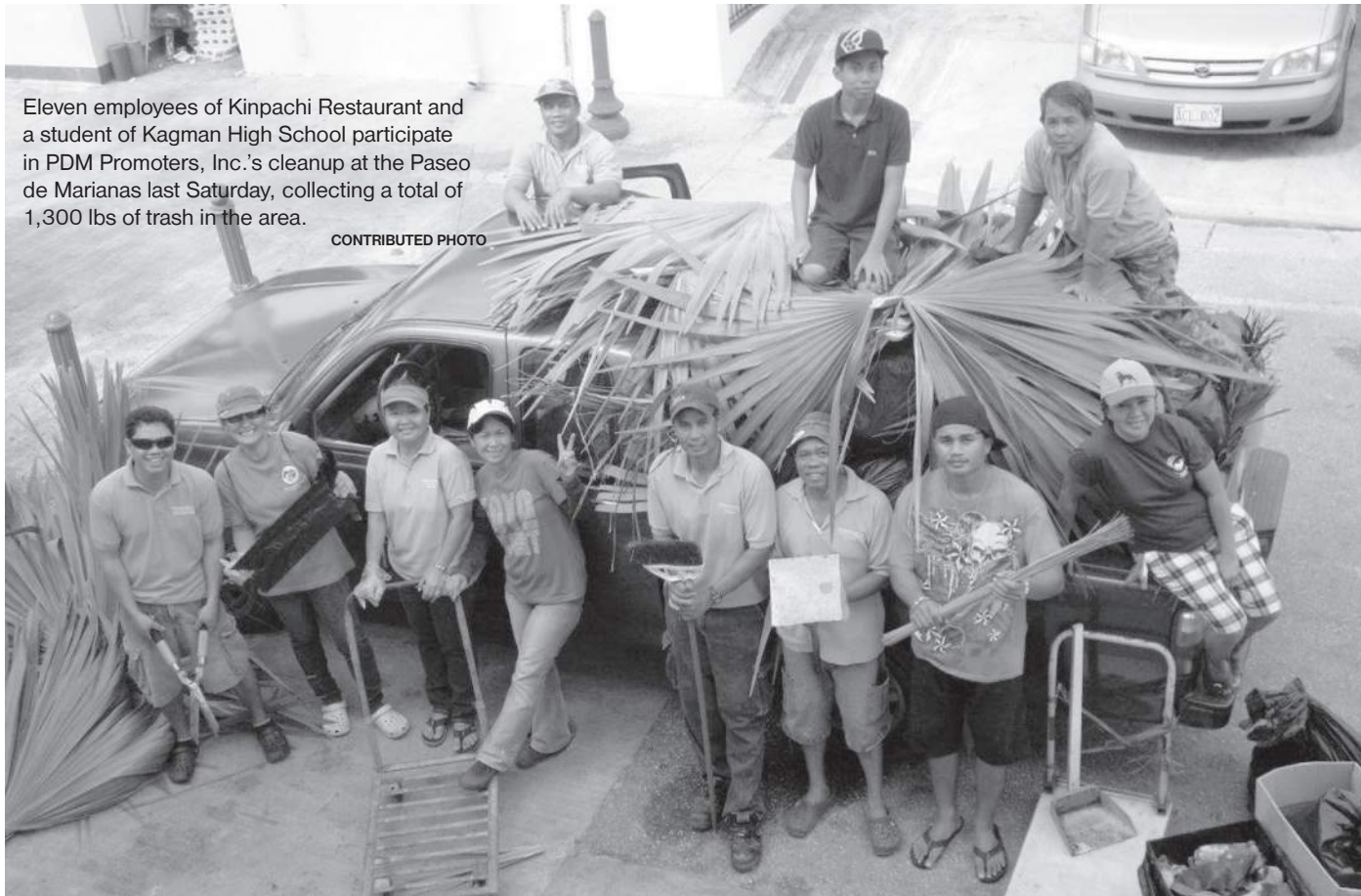
*ex parte* request for a status conference in his criminal case.

The Office of Public Auditor filed criminal misdemeanor charges against Buckingham. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## PDM collects 1,300 lbs of trash in first 2013 cleanup

Eleven employees of Kinpachi Restaurant and a student of Kagman High School participate in PDM Promoters, Inc.'s cleanup at the Paseo de Marianas last Saturday, collecting a total of 1,300 lbs of trash in the area.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The nonprofit group PDM Promoters, Inc. conducted its first cleanup for 2013 in Garapan over the weekend. The group of volunteers picked up trash, did bush cutting and tree trimming on Saturday at Paseo de Marianas, collecting a total of 1,300 lbs of trash in the area.

Sonia Siwa of PDM Promoters, Inc. said 11 employees of Kinpachi Restaurant and one student of Kagman High School participated in the three-hour cleanup. The student, Adrian Ngalongalo, previously par-

ticipated as part of his required community service in school, according to Siwa.

She noted that members of the Saipan Awaodori Team were not able to take part in Saturday's cleanup due to school activities.

"The classes have just resumed after holiday break, and we understand that the Awaodori dancers are still getting used to their schedule," Siwa said, adding that the young dancers will be back to volunteer next month. (*Clarissa V. David*)

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### SVES Family Game Night tomorrow

San Vicente Elementary School will hold the first campus-wide Family Game Night tomorrow, Jan. 17. Join us from 5pm to 6pm for a ton of fun activities such as musical chairs, dodgeball, ropes, and "Are you smarter than a 5th grader." Parents are encouraged to also attend the PTA meeting in SVES cafeteria immediately following the Game Night.

For more information, contact the school at 237-3791. (*SVES*)

#### CCA to join Massive Bingo Bonanza

The Commonwealth Cancer Association will be sponsoring a Bingo Spectacular fundraising event in partnership with the Massive Bingo Bonanza on Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013, at the former Fishing Base Complex, across the Horiguchi Building in Garapan. Participants will have the opportunity to vie for a \$1,000 cash payout prize. Tickets are \$20 for one package, each package providing 10 games. The doors will open at 2pm and the games will start at 3pm in the afternoon.

The community is encouraged to come down and enjoy the games, and assist the very worthy cause of facilitating cancer programs in the CNMI. All proceeds from the event will go to CCA. Contact the CCA at 682-0050 or by email at ccamarianas@gmail.com for tickets or for more information about CCA and its programs. (*CCA*)

#### Tinian Municipal Council inauguration reset

This is to inform all guests of the 14th Municipal Council of Tinian and Aguiguan that the Inauguration has been rescheduled to Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013, out of respect for the untimely passing and funeral of a Tinian resident. For more information on the Inaugural schedule, contact the Mayor's Office of Tinian and Aguiguan at (670) 433-1800 or 433-1802. (*PR*)

#### Survivors, caregivers support meeting

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association's monthly support meeting scheduled for tomorrow, Jan. 17, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room starting at 5:30pm. This month's support meeting guest speaker will be Nola Hix, MMAC subcommittee survivors' chairperson. Her presentation will focus on MMAC 2013. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. (*PR*)

#### MHS Class of '83 sets general meeting

The MHS Class of 1983 will have a general meeting on Friday, Jan. 18, 2013, at Minatchom Atdao Pavilion, Susupe, Civic Center Beach, at 7pm. For more information, call Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. (*PR*)

#### CCA sets general membership meeting

All friends, volunteers, partners, and clients of the Commonwealth Cancer Association and all members of the community are invited to the general membership meeting on Jan. 24, 2013 at 5:30pm at CCA's Conference Room in Guarlo Rai.

The agenda will include the 2012 annual report of the president and treasurer, election of four CCA board members, and an opportunity for public comments. Nominations for board members will be accepted on the floor. For more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email ccamarianas@gmail.com. (*PR*)

## Jr. High Mock Trial workshop this Saturday

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will hold a Junior High Mock Trial workshop this coming Saturday, Jan. 19, at the Guma Hustisia beginning at 10am.

The goal of the workshop is to provide new teacher-coaches with the basics of the mock trial program including advice on opening and closing remarks, direct and cross examinations, and introducing evidence.

Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho, who has served as the program's mock trial judge since its inception in 2005, will facilitate the workshop.

The workshop is open to any interested junior high mock trial teacher coach and is being offered free of charge.

This year's program will culminate in a series of mock trials held at the Guma Hustisia on Saturday, 13 April. Registration forms are available on the council's website at [www.nmihumanities.org](http://www.nmihumanities.org)

Individuals wishing to learn more about Saturday's workshop and/or the Junior High Mock Trial program are invited to contact council staff at 235-4787. (*PR*)

## Korean students to perform at Street Market

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
[clarissa\\_david@saipantribune.com](mailto:clarissa_david@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The newly established King's International Education Center is set to wrap up its first-ever Winter English Camp with cultural presentations from its young Korean participants.

Headmaster Kuen-Hee Han said Monday that 55 students from alternative schools in Seoul and Gwangju in South Korea will perform at the Garapan Street Market on Jan. 17, from 7:30pm to 8:30pm.

Han said the students' performances will include song numbers in English and Korean as well as dance numbers, including a demonstration of the traditional Korean fan dance from

their youngest campers.

Thursday's performers comprise the second batch of Korean students who signed up for the center's Winter English Camp, a four-week program that offers participants an opportunity to learn not only the English language but also the island culture.

"I think Saipan is perfect for English learning and cultural exchange," Han told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the Korean students' exposure to a different culture gives them a wider perspective of the world.

According to Han, the camp has a two-pronged approach to student learning: Participants are completely immersed in the English language through class-

room learning at Mount Carmel School in Chalan Kanoa, and they take part in after-school activities at the center located at Saipan Gold Beach Hotel along Beach Road in Garapan.

She said their first camp was from Nov. 30 to Dec. 25 while the second camp began on Dec. 24 and will end on Jan. 24. Han noted that some of the students from the second batch are scheduled to leave this Friday, a day after their Street Market performance.

Han disclosed a plan to offer the camp even during summer and a long-term plan to extend the camp's duration.

For more information about the camp or King's International Education Center, call 235-7665.



### ON BOARD

Dr. Allan Markoff, left, and Pamela Carhill, right, with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial after being sworn-in and signing their oaths of office yesterday to serve as members of the Medical Profession Licensing Board. The administration is confident that Markoff and Carhill will be tremendous asset to the board.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Wake-up call for Haiti

Just in time for the third anniversary of Haiti's earthquake on Jan. 12, 2010, Canada's principal foreign aid minister, Julian Fantino, delivered a wake-up call to that country's government by declaring that he was placing future foreign aid to Haiti "on ice" because he was not satisfied with its progress toward recovery.

Given that Haiti would collapse without foreign assistance, his comments got the immediate attention of the government and Haiti's international partners.

Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe pointed out that the magnitude of the disaster was so great—42 public buildings destroyed, more than 300,000 killed, and total damages of about \$12.5 billion—that recovery was bound to be a slow and painful process.

In many ways, Mr. Lamothe is right. Mr. Fantino's judgment doesn't give Haitians enough credit for what they've accomplished under the most trying circumstances. The government has neither received nor spent most of the international aid destined for that country; non-government organizations got most of it. And only about half of the \$5.3 billion in promised funding from international donors has been delivered.

Hurricanes Isaac and Sandy inflicted more damage on the island in 2012, even as the government continued to fight the spread of a cholera epidemic.

More important, Haiti has indeed made undeniable progress in some areas.

Port-au-Prince has been cleaned up, the government says more than 1 million children are in school, vital new projects, many of them in tourism, have been started. Some of the most visible tent cities have finally closed down, replaced by spruced up parks in some cases. The crumbling palace has finally been razed.

Still, Mr. Fantino's remarks served a useful purpose. His comments hinted at what many other friends of Haiti only whisper in private—that the government's own performance leaves a lot to be desired and runs the risk of exhausting the patience of donors who won't stand to see their aid money wasted.

Progress in Haiti is often thwarted by personal feuds and political infighting.

Transparency and accountability don't seem to matter. Orderly planning and follow-through are largely absent. The government led by President Michel Martelly and Prime Minister Lamothe needs to do a lot more to win the international community's trust—and its continued financial support.

They can start by easing the way for the Electoral Council to hold long-overdue elections for mayors and local offices and fill 10 vacant seats in the Senate.

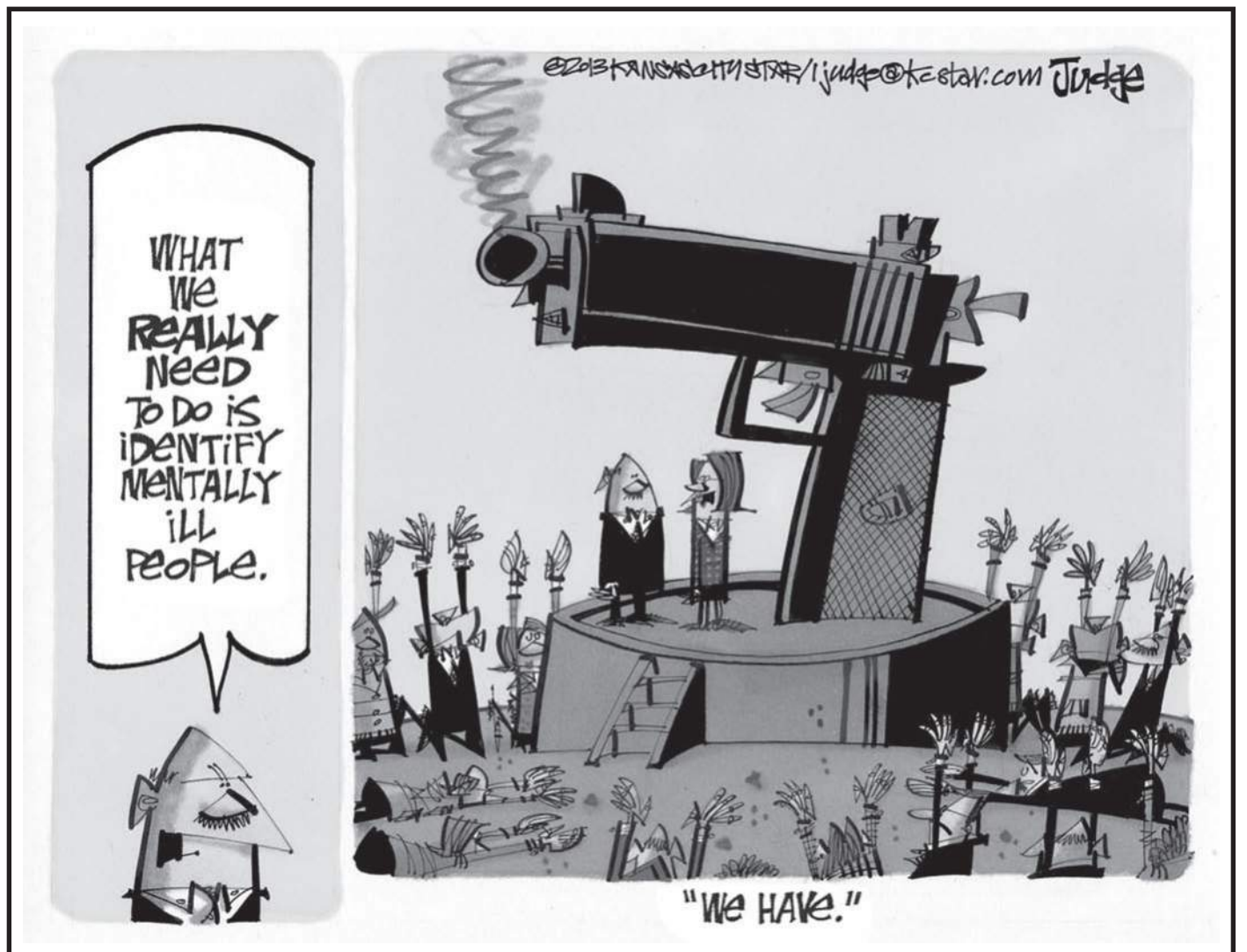
This would be the surest and easiest way to get the government off to a fresh start and disarm its critics.

They also need to focus on employment, which remains at appalling levels, well over 50 percent by most estimates. At the start of 2012, economic growth was projected at 7 percent or more, but came in at a disappointing 2.5 percent. A sharper focus by the government on finding productive job for Haitians is needed.

The U.S. government can do its part by speeding up the family reunification process. Homeland Security has already approved family-based visa petitions for 106,312 Haitians, but the waiting period to enter this country of 2 1/2 to 12 years makes little sense.

Expediting the process would lessen the misery in Haiti and possibly save lives. Haitians could receive no better news than this from the U.S. on this third anniversary of the devastating earthquake.

(c) 2013 The Miami Herald



## For journalists today, the whole world is watching

Recently, I wrote a post for my personal blog about the opening of a garment factory in Haiti. The ceremony was attended by, among others, Bill and Hillary Clinton, Sean Penn, Ben Stiller and Haiti's president, Michel Martelly. But I was bothered by the idea of cheap Haitian labor making scores of T-shirts each day that would sell, individually, for more than a worker at the plant earns per day, and that's what I wrote.

The post got a lot of reaction. I heard from politicians, celebrities, a State Department liaison. And guess what? They were not pleased. "I am SO disappointed ..." one email message began.

I've been writing about Haiti for a long time, which is why the reaction surprised me. It used to be that you could write about Haiti—and I suspect about almost anywhere in the developing world—without anyone taking much note. For years, I wrote in what seemed like secret. I wrote for the Nation magazine, and no one I knew ever mentioned that they'd seen what I'd written. More surprising, I rarely heard anything—positive or negative—from anyone I had written about. Then, I moved to *Time* magazine, in those days the most widely read, most mainstream newsweekly in America with a readership in the tens of millions. I felt like I'd made it to the big time, but no one ever seemed to see my writing there either.

This meant that for the most part, I could write without raising the hackles of those I wrote about. Or at least not until their maiden aunts in Dubuque or Boise sent them a clipping. Even then, I was guaranteed a nice time lag, during which I would have moved on to the next story. I liked that: I got the thrill of publication without much possibility of backlash.

If, by chance, someone happened both to read and react negatively to what I'd written about them, I never knew unless that person bothered to write a letter to the editor, which entailed typing a letter, putting it in an envelope, locating the address of the publication and getting the whole shebang, with stamp, to a mailbox. That took really caring.

I began my first book on Haiti in 1986 on a portable white Olivetti Rocket typewriter (which is still in my possession, in my son's closet), and I used white-out for corrections; I finished writing the book in 1989 on a Kaypro black-box computer. My latest Haiti book was written on a MacBook Air, something that my children already seem to find archaic.

All that technological change, and the connectivity that has come with it, means that now, when I write about Haiti, it's noticed not just by my closest friends and family but by the people I'm writing about, and anyone else who could possibly care anywhere in the world. Now, everyone, even that maiden aunt in Dubuque, has a Google alert set to bring instant news of people

By AMY WILENTZ  
Los Angeles Times

Amy Wilentz's most recent book is "Farewell, Fred Voodoo: A Letter From Haiti." She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



or topics of interest. Response to the written word is immediate and highly judgmental.

Today, for better and worse, publication is unbearably ... public.

I composed the post about the garment factory in Haiti under the old understanding I had internalized as a younger writer: No one reads what I write.

But I was wrong. Everyone reads what I write these days, or so it seems. I can no longer count on slipping under the radar, writing only for the audience I want to reach.

It turns out, after the initial shock, that this is not all bad. For one thing, it helps keep writers honest and responsible. Instead of responding to the imperatives of an editor, journalists now must respond to the people in their stories. The public has become the gatekeeper.

These days, people take me to task for every sort of sin, and yet I know I am not a worse or less accurate writer today than I was back at *Time*. People read what I write while sitting at their computers, and can then attack me immediately, without even having to stand up. No more looking for envelopes and stamps; no chance to cool off on the walk to the mailbox. Now it's dash off an email and hit the send button.

It's not a bad thing to be held accountable, even when it's uncomfortable. But there is one thing that worries me about this "new word order." Some writers don't like to be criticized, and will do almost anything to avoid it. In the new world of swift and scathing feedback, this can lead to self-censorship, to an avoidance of touchy topics and a tendency to pull punches. Why write about Haiti's failings if it's only going to bring attacks?

The other day, I happened to blog about Haitian food rather than politics. Posts about food, it turns out, make people happy, not angry. I posted pictures of the New Year's pumpkin soup I made, a Haitian tradition. No one's mad yet. I put up a picture I took on my iPhone of a pot of cornmeal, another Haitian staple. No response from State.

And the cornmeal didn't seem to care.

I'm thinking I'll blog about spaghetti Creole tomorrow. It's really yummy.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## The choice of peace

A local group is fully organized to encourage the strengthening of peace in families throughout the islands. The message is simple: Be at peace with yourself and it shall descend upon the family. It grants matriarchs and patriarchs greater room for spiritual and personal development of siblings. Nothing is absolute but an environment of peace and harmony are better paths than unsolicited violence that triggers disunity.

As we dwell on the essence of peace, we're reminded of an old saying, "Dad builds a house while mom makes a home." The family needs both parents at home for the sake of their children. The unity of mom and dad is founded on love and commitment, their children the product of love. Let us strengthen upon the positive aspect of peace that begins with unequivocal love from mom and dad. It's a sturdy path for children who look up to mom and dad as they grow up.

The flip side to a dedicated mom is the negative aspect of dad going off the ranch. Perhaps he's mistakenly become a drug addict, alcoholic, jobless, or a gambler. One of four aspects is sufficient to trigger the ruination of peace and tranquility at home. The use of violence forces kids into the fear corner as they painfully ask why's mom going through physical abuse or beating. It need not be this way.

In severe situations, it prompts the relocation of mom and kids to a relative's house, very uncomfortable and an imposition on the second family. Thus, everybody is displaced from the usual routine, temporarily. Away from home, the kids asks mom to return home for they miss the comforts of familiar setting. It's hard on them as they compete for their own space they can't find at another's. Nor are they free to do as they please like the old house. It's very unsettling. They don't deserve dislocation resulting from dad's abusive behavior.

Throwing dad behind bars isn't going to help either especially if he also needs help dealing with his unearned issues. There's often a likely chance that he'd fall right into the same trap upon release. It means that he needs help with counseling. He needs it and it would

be a great service seeing his recovery so he could return home too. A dislocated family is bad experience all around for both mom and kids. I'm sure this wasn't what they expected of dad before the boat hit the reef.

Stability is the foundation that comes from parental disposition. It is the most important aspect of parenthood they could provide their kids as they grow up. The presence of both parental pillars establishes discipline and familial unity. Each kid learns that there are sets of rules that all must follow otherwise mom or dad would be very unhappy. Kids are good folks too who'd pitch into becoming the pride of their parents. It also hurts them to know that they've gone against normal expectations.

I'm sure most would agree how wonderful a feeling it is coming home after work to find your spouse and children preparing dinner. Between your arrival and suppertime, you get to gather a load of issues about their problems and concerns or a lively academic debate among your high school-age kids. I usually use Q-Tips to clear my ears before calling it a night. But it's one of the treasured pleasures of coming home.

Be that as it may, good old dad must make it a point to quickly seek help to resolve his bouts with potent drugs or whatever may have derailed him. Your young boy wants your company on his weekend sports activities or time at the beach or family farm with you. As difficult reaching your long steps, they are right behind you and it would be very disappointing if you were not there to lead him with dad's sturdy hands. Yes, you both deserve each other's love and harmonious sense of contributions as familial pillars.

### Dad's long held pain

For many years, my dad and I were silently sizing out each other trying to find the right time to unload long held issues. In my junior year, he braved asking if we could talk before retiring.

He explained what slavery is all about when your mom dies while you're at a very tender age. "You are everybody's slave doing

## Confronting Iran — again

Here's a prediction I don't think I'll have to apologize for at the end of the year: Some time in the coming months, probably this spring, there will be another crisis over Iran's nuclear program.

It's become an annual event on the diplomatic calendar: The United States and its allies press Iran to stop enriching uranium, Iran says no, Israel warns that its patience is running out, and the United States persuades Israel to stay its hand.

That's how the crisis has unfolded over the last two years. But there are several reasons to believe that 2013's crisis will be different, and that Tehran will either agree to limit its nuclear program, or Israel and the United States will move toward military action.

For one thing, President Obama's re-election gives him a freer hand to make a deal or to consider military action if a deal can't be reached. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is about to get re-elected too, and he will head an even more hawkish government. And one more element has changed: Over the past year, Obama has hardened his warnings that the United States will not allow Iran to go nuclear, even if that requires military action.

"A nuclear-armed Iran is not a challenge that can be contained," he told the U.N. General Assembly in September. "The United States will do what we must to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon."

The president still has doubters in both the United States and Israel. When Obama hardened his position against Iran, they note, it was an election year, and he needed to sound tough to stave off Israeli military action and placate pro-Israel voters. Now that he's been reelected, his true antiwar beliefs will resurface, they predict. As proof, they say, there's his nomination of former Sen. Chuck Hagel as secretary of Defense—a Republican who has been one of his party's most vocal skeptics about the wisdom of military action against Iran.

"Once you start (an attack on Iran) ... you'd better be prepared to find 100,000 troops, because it may take that," Hagel warned in 2010.

In a 2008 book, Hagel suggested that the United States might be able to live with a nuclear-armed Iran, just as it learned to live with a nuclear-armed Soviet Union.

"Of course we would like to see Iran free of nuclear weapons," he wrote then. "But the genie of nuclear armaments is already out of the bottle, no matter what Iran does."

But that was the old Hagel, before he was nominated for secretary of Defense. Last week, as he prepared for his confirmation hearings, Hagel took pains to reassure senators that he is falling fully in line with Obama's tougher position on Iran.

"He strongly supports the president's position on Iran," one official told me after speaking with Hagel at the Pentagon. "He agrees that military action should be on the table."

Indeed, the White House hopes to turn Hagel's confirmation hearing into an opportunity to reinforce its hard line. Obama's first two secretaries of Defense, Robert M. Gates and Leon E. Panetta, both warned publicly against the costs of going to war with Iran. Hagel is likely to make it clear that, despite the costs, he accepts that the threat of war is necessary.

In a conversation with Dennis Ross, Obama's former adviser on Iran, Hagel went a step further into the hawkish camp.

"He was very clear that he believes we can't live with an Iran that has nuclear-weapons capability," Ross told me.

Is that the Washington equivalent of a deathbed conversion—a sudden change of view on the eve of confirmation hearings? Maybe. But it's also a sign that Obama isn't softening his stance on Iran

By JOHN DELROSARIO  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



chores they won't dare do themselves," he related. "I'd go around searching for firewood at three in the morning so my auntie could brew coffee and cook breakfast."

"My childhood years were fast forwarded to adulthood and so I never knew what it was like growing up as a child", he related. "I never knew the world of a child and it is for this reason that I also treated you guys like full blown adults." His mom died of tuberculosis before the war (he was just 3 years old) and he and siblings had to do without the love and care of a mother most of us were fortunate to have in our younger days.

It unveiled what I thought was an unjust demeanor that slowly crawled out of him as he sought the opportunity to share more than six decades of pain. Without admitting the abuse he had endured, he dispense of it as part of growing up.

Can you imagine how much he wanted the warmth of his mother's palm on his forehead on bad days or her sweet, soothing, reassuring and harmonious voice as an ever loving matriarch? My dad never had a kid's journey. He'd hum his mom's song as he romanticizes the "what might have been" had he had the benefit of a matriarch's love. Don't force this painful experience on your kids. Stand by their side especially during their formative years. They need the sturdy hands of mom and dad as they discover, on their own, the essence of finding their own place in our community.

By DOYLE MCMANUS  
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him e-mail at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.



for his second term, and that embracing Obama's view was a price of Hagel's nomination.

"The president has been unequivocal about his determination to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon," White House spokesman Tommy Vietor told me. "Everyone who works for him will be charged with executing that policy."

Indeed, the White House hopes to turn Hagel's confirmation hearing into an opportunity to reinforce its hard line. Obama's first two secretaries of Defense, Robert M. Gates and Leon E. Panetta, both warned publicly against the costs of going to war with Iran. Hagel is likely to make it clear that, despite the costs, he accepts that the threat of war is necessary.

"We still have a challenge to convince the Iranians that we're quite serious about the use of force," Ross said. "In the first term, the administration didn't always speak with one voice on this issue. So what Hagel says can make a difference.... It could affect Iranian perceptions and Israeli perceptions."

The point of all this saber-rattling isn't to start a war, of course; it's to increase the pressure on Iran to agree to limits on its nuclear program.

"For diplomacy to have a chance of success, the Iranians need to understand that if diplomacy fails, force is going to be the result," Ross said.

And even if diplomacy fails, Obama could attack Iran's nuclear program with covert action, sabotage or limited airstrikes before resorting to full-scale war.

But anyone who expected Chuck Hagel to become a strong force for restraint in Obama's second term may be disappointed. Instead, we are likely to have an antiwar president and an antiwar secretary of Defense, both bent on convincing Iran that they are willing to go to war.



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 76
Yap	Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80

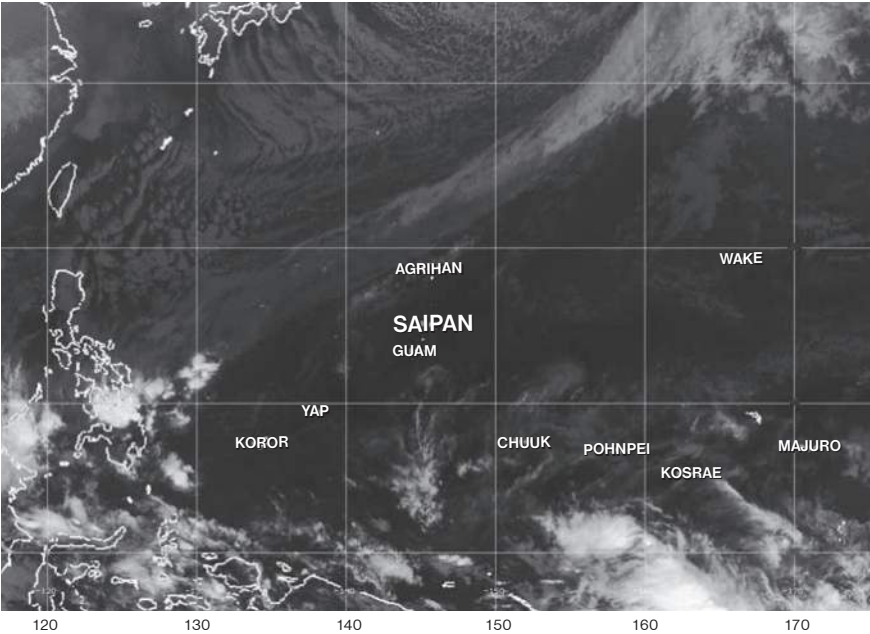
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 64
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 34 ▼ 13
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 66 ▼ 55
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 66
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 34 ▼ 27
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 45
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 74
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 97 ▼ 60
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 67
New York	Ice	▲ 40 ▼ 33
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 43 ▼ 34
Paris	Sunny	▲ 32 ▼ 24
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 40 ▼ 25
Rome	Showers	▲ 47 ▼ 37
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 30
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 42
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 25 ▼ 10
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 27
Washington, DC	Rain	▲ 48 ▼ 37

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:45 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
11:18 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
5:43 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
10:53 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2013**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from near Minami Tori Shima at 25N155E to beyond 130E at 11N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring along and up to 250 miles northwest of the front. A shear line meanders to the west-southwest from northeast of Majuro at 12N180 to near chuuk at 8N150E. Scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles north of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough stretches east-southeastward from 3N130E to EQ165E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present aouth of Pohnpei and Kosrae south of a line from 3N154E to 2N171E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers east of Majuro between 3N and 8N east of 173E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:55 AM	10:21 PM
Thursday	10:36 AM	11:12 PM
Friday	11:16 AM	
Saturday	11:57 AM	12:02 AM
Sunday	12:39 PM	12:52 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JAN. 7, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 2, 4, 6, 7 DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 6, 7 OZ608 3:30am 6:40am 3	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 5, 6 OZ607 9:35pm 2:25am+1 2
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b> MU7108 3:50am 7:00am 1, 5	<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b> MU7107 7:40pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)</b> XF1734 6:30am 12:30pm 5	<b>VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN</b> XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 UA5070/191 4:35am 10:00am 6 via GUM UA5070/191 4:40am 10:00am 3 DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:30pm 2, 5 via GUM  UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:05am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/UA5071 10:10pm 8:00am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN  UA5076/147 3:10pm 10:30pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:25pm 10:40am+1 1 via GUM UA180/5077 11:25pm 6:25pm+1 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 1020	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Business

## Toyota retakes global auto sales crown from GM

**DETROIT (AP)**—Toyota has once again dethroned General Motors as the world's top-selling automaker.

The Japanese company sold 9.7 million cars and trucks worldwide in 2012, although it's still counting. GM sold 9.29 million.

Both companies saw higher sales, but Toyota's growth was far larger as it rolled out new versions of popular models like the Camry. GM executives promised sales growth this year, especially in the U.S. Both companies say publicly that they don't care about who wins, but concede that the crown is an important morale booster for employees.

GM was the top-selling carmaker for more than seven decades before losing the title to Toyota in 2008. But GM retook the sales crown in 2011 when Toyota's factories were slowed by an earthquake and tsunami in Japan. The disaster left Toyota dealers with few cars to sell. The company has since recovered.

Toyota's comeback from the earthquake, and flooding in Thailand, is only part of the story, says Jeff Schuster, senior vice president of forecasting for

LMC Automotive, a Detroit-area industry forecasting firm. The company also has freshened up its stale midsize sedan, the Camry, the top-selling car in the United States.

GM's global sales rose 2.9 percent last year, it announced Monday at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. Toyota sales rose 22 percent.

Schuster expects Toyota to keep the lead over GM this year as it launches a new Corolla compact later this year.

"I think that's going to be enough to keep them in their position," he says.

Toyota builds 70 percent of the cars it sells in the U.S. in North America, including the Corolla.

GM is also contending with a stronger Volkswagen. It narrowly edged out the fast-growing German company for second place in 2012. VW sold a record 9.1 million vehicles.

Volkswagen, with big sellers like the Passat midsize sedan and Jetta compact, closed in on GM with an 11 percent sales increase across the globe. The United States, where VW brand sales rose 31 percent, led the way.



In this Jan. 14, 2013 file photo, Toyota unveils its Corolla Furia Concept car during the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. Toyota has once again dethroned General Motors as the world's top-selling automaker. The Japanese company sold 9.7 million cars and trucks worldwide in 2012, although it's still counting.

## Conservatives chip away at \$50B Sandy aid package

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—House conservatives opposed to more deficit spending tried Monday to chip away at the \$50.7 billion Superstorm Sandy aid package by requiring offsetting spending cuts to pay for recovery efforts and by stripping money for projects they say are unrelated to the Oct. 29 storm or not urgently needed.

The push by budget hawks for amendments sets up a fight with Northeast lawmakers in both parties eager to provide recovery aid for one of the worst storms ever to strike the region as the House moves toward expected votes Tuesday on the emergency spending package.

The base \$17 billion bill by the House Appropriations Committee is aimed at immediate Sandy recovery needs, including \$5.4 billion for New York and New Jersey transit systems and \$5.4 billion for Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster relief aid fund.

Northeast lawmakers will have a chance to add to that bill

with an amendment by Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J., for an additional \$33.7 billion, including \$10.9 billion for public transportation projects.

The Club for Growth, a conservative group, on Monday urged lawmakers to oppose both Sandy aid measures.

"Congress shouldn't keep passing massive 'emergency' relief bills that aren't paid for, have little oversight, and are stuffed with pork," the club said in a statement.

Sandy aid supporters, nonetheless, voiced confidence Monday they would prevail. The Senate passed a \$60.4 billion Sandy aid package in December with bipartisan support.

"We have more than enough votes, I'm confident of that," said Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., claiming a base of strong support from Democrats as well as Republicans from the Northeast and other states for both the base \$17 billion bill and the amendment for the additional \$33.7 billion.

## Bernanke prods Congress to raise debt ceiling

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Monday that it's important that Congress raise the nation's borrowing limit before the Treasury runs out of maneuvering room to avoid a potential default on U.S. debt.

Bernanke, speaking at the University of Michigan, said the approaching debt limit is one of the "critical fiscal watersheds" for the government in coming weeks.

President Barack Obama also spoke Monday about the urgency of raising the limit. Obama said he wouldn't let congressional Republicans use the debt

limit as leverage in negotiations over spending cuts.

Bernanke noted that an impasse over the debt ceiling in 2011 led to a rating downgrade of long-term U.S. debt, the first time that's occurred. He said Congress should raise the ceiling to "avoid a situation where our government doesn't pay its bills."



Bernanke

The Fed decided last month to keep buying \$85 billion a month in Treasuries and mortgage bonds to try to keep borrowing costs low and encourage more

spending. The bond-buying program was left open-ended.

But it turned out that Fed officials differed about how long the bond purchases should continue. When the minutes of the meeting were released Jan. 3, they revealed that "several" committee members thought the purchases should slow or end well before year's end. These officials fear the bond buying is keeping rates so low for so long that it could ignite inflation or encourage speculative

buying of risky assets.

Still, many economists have said they think the Fed will maintain its bond purchases at their current level through 2013.

On Monday, Bernanke didn't address the divisions within the Fed. But he said he thought the new round of bond buying was providing key support. He said the Fed will continue to assess the benefits of the bond buying against any risks of continuing the purchases. Bernanke said the purchases have shown that the Fed still has "ammunition" to aid the economy even after having cut short-term interest rates to near zero.

## Coca-Cola to tackle obesity for 1st time in TV ads

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Coca-Cola became one of the world's most powerful brands by equating its soft drinks with happiness. Now it's taking to the airwaves for the first time to address a growing cloud over the industry: obesity.

The Atlanta-based company on Monday will begin airing a two-minute spot during the highest-rated shows on

CNN, Fox News and MSNBC in hopes of flexing its marketing muscle in the debate over sodas and their impact on public health. The ad lays out Coca-Cola's record of providing drinks with fewer calories and notes that weight gain is the result of consuming too many calories of any kind—not just soda.

For Coca-Cola, the world's

No. 1 beverage company, the ads reflect the mounting pressures on the broader industry. Later this year, New York City is set to enact a first-in-the-nation cap on the size of soft drinks sold at restaurants, movie theaters and sports arenas. The mayor of Cambridge, Mass., has already introduced a similar measure, saying she was inspired by New York's move.

Even when PepsiCo Inc., the No. 2 soda maker, recently signed a wide-ranging endorsement deal with pop singer Beyonce, critics called for her to drop the contract or donate the funds to health initiatives.

New research in the past year also suggests that sugary drinks cause people to pack on the pounds independent of other behavior. A decades-long study



LEADING INDICATORS		
<b>DOW</b>	<b>S&amp;P</b>	<b>NASDAQ</b>
13,507.32	1,470.68	3,117.50
18.89	-1.37	0.00
+0.14%	-0.09%	+0.00%

EXCHANGE RATES		
In U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	0.9481
	British Pound	0.622
	Canadian Dollar	0.984
	Chinese Yuan	6.2196
	Euro	0.7483
	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7529
	Indian Rupee	54.475
		Philippine Peso 40.56
		Singapore Dollar 1.2248
		South Korean Won 1055.9
		Swiss Franc 0.9247
		Taiwan Dollar 28.955
		Thailand Baht 30.09



# Nation

## Obama backs gun limits, concedes tough fight ahead

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama endorsed controversial bans on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines on Monday, as well as stricter background checks for gun buyers—but conceded he may not win approval of all in a Congress reluctant to tighten restrictions.

“Will all of them get through this Congress? I don’t know,” said Obama. He said lawmakers would have to “examine their own conscience” as they tackle gun control legislation after the horrifying Connecticut school shootings but in the face of opposition from the National Rifle Association and other pro-gun rights groups.

Obama spoke at a midday White House news conference one month after the Newtown elementary school rampage, which ignited a national discussion on preventing mass shootings.

The president will unveil a comprehensive roadmap for curbing gun violence within days, perhaps as early as Wednesday. His plan will be based on recommendations from Vice President Joe Biden’s gun task force and is expected to include both legislative proposals and several steps Obama can implement himself using his presidential powers.

Biden identified 19 potential executive actions the president could enact on his own, said Jenny Werwa, communications director for California Rep. Jackie Speier, who joined other Democratic House members at a meeting with the vice president Monday.

Among the executive actions Biden is believed to have recommended to Obama are tougher penalties for people who lie on background checks, elevating gun trafficking to a felony charge and ending limits that make it harder for the



In this Thursday, Dec. 20, 2012 file photo, Clerk Lance McCoy, right, shows a variety of weapons including an AR-15 style semi-automatic at Kizer Guns and Ammo near Nacogdoches, Texas. AP

federal government to research gun violence.

But the most sweeping and contentious elements—including an assault weapons ban—will require approval from a Congress that has been loath to tackle gun control legislation for more than a decade. The politically powerful NRA has vowed to fight any measure that would limit access to guns and ammunition, a hard-line position that could sway some Republicans and conservative Democrats.

Despite the opposition, Obama said he would “vigorously pursue” measures to tighten gun laws.

“My starting point is not to worry about the politics,” he said.

The president’s new resolve follows a lack of movement in tackling gun violence throughout much of his first term, despite several high-profile shootings. He called the Dec. 14 massacre of 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School the worst day of his presidency and vowed to take action.

Parents of the slain Connecticut children added their voices to the national dialogue Monday. Members of the newly formed group Sandy Hook Promise called for an open-minded discussion about a range of issues, including guns, mental health and safety in schools and other public places.

And lawmakers in New York state pressed ahead with what would be the nation’s first gun control measure approved since the school shootings. Among the items in a tentative agreement in the state Legislature are further restrictions on the state’s ban on assault weapons, limits on the size of magazines to seven bullets, down from the current 10, and more stringent background checks for sales.

### NY poised to be 1st to pass post-massacre gun bill

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Days after calling for an overhaul of gun control in New York following the Connecticut school shooting, Gov. Andrew Cuomo worked out a tough proposal on gun control with legislative leaders who promised to pass the most restrictive gun law in the nation.

The measure passed the Senate 43-18 on the strength of support from Democrats, many of whom previously sponsored the bills that were once blocked by Republicans.

The Democrat-led Assembly gavelled out before midnight

and planned to take the issue up at 10 a.m. Tuesday. It is expected to pass easily.

“This is a scourge on society,” Cuomo said Monday night, one month after the Newtown, Conn., shooting that took the lives of 20 first graders and six educators. “At what point do you say, ‘No more innocent loss of life.’”

“It is well-balanced, it protects the Second Amendment,” said Senate Republican leader Dean Skelos of Long Island. “And there is no confiscation of weapons, which was at one time being considered.

“This is going to go after those who are bringing illegal guns into the state, who are slaughtering people in New York City,” Skelos said. “This is going to put people in jail and keep people in jail who shouldn’t be out on the street in the first place.”

“This will be the toughest gun control package in the nation,” said Sen. Jeffrey Klein, leader of the Independent Democrat Conference that shares majority control with Republican senators. “All in all, it is a comprehensive, balanced approach that

will save lives,” Klein said in an interview.

Cuomo said he wanted quick action to avoid a run on assault rifles and ammunition as he tries to address what he estimates is about 1 million assault rifles in New York state. He made it a centerpiece of his progressive agenda in last week’s State of the State address.

Republican Sen. Greg Ball called that political opportunism in a rare criticism of the popular and powerful governor seen by his supporters as a possible candidate for president in 2016.

### Obama: Debt limit fight imperils elderly’s checks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Declaring “we are not a deadbeat nation,” President Obama warned on Monday that Social Security checks and veterans’ benefits will be delayed if congressional Republicans fail to increase the government’s borrowing authority in a looming showdown over the nation’s debt and spending.

Obama said he was willing to negotiate deficit reduction with GOP leaders but insisted that those talks be separate from decisions to raise the \$16.4 trillion debt ceiling and avert a possible first-ever national default.

“They will not collect a

ransom in exchange for not crashing the American economy,” Obama said in a news conference one week before he is sworn in for a second term. “What I will not do is to have that negotiation with a gun at the head of the American people.”

Bitter brinkmanship between the White House and congressional Republicans over spending has become a defining event over the past four years, testing both Obama’s leverage and his resolve at different moments of his presidency. House Speaker John Boehner brushed off Obama’s insistence on separating the debt ceiling from ne-

gotiations over spending cuts.

“The American people do not support raising the debt ceiling without reducing government spending at the same time,” Boehner said. “The consequences of failing to increase the debt ceiling are real, but so, too, are the consequences of allowing our spending problem to go unresolved.

Underscoring the urgency, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said in a letter to Boehner on Monday that the government will exhaust its borrowing limit as soon as mid-February, earlier than expected.

### Man tied to Mafia: Hoffa buried in Detroit area

DETROIT (AP)—A man convicted of crimes as a reputed Mafia captain is claiming missing Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa was buried in suburban Detroit.

Tony Zerilli was in prison when Hoffa disappeared from a Detroit-area restaurant in 1975, but tells New York TV station WNBC he was informed about Hoffa’s whereabouts after his release. The ailing 85-year-old took a reporter to a field near Rochester, north of Detroit, but no exact location was disclosed. The report was also aired on Detroit’s WDIV.

“The master plan was ... they were going to put him in a shallow grave here,” Zerilli

said ( <http://bit.ly/W1KgZp> ). “Then, they were going to take him from here to Rogers City upstate. There was a hunting lodge and they were going to bury in a shallow grave, then take him up there for final burial. Then, I understand, that it just fell through.”

Zerilli did not say during the aired interview why he chose to make his claims now. WNBC reported he is promoting an upcoming book titled “Hoffa Found,” the website for which promises to reveal details about Hoffa’s death.

No listed phone number for Zerilli could be found Monday by The Associated Press.

The FBI declined to comment when asked if Zerilli’s

claims were credible. Former Detroit FBI head Andrew Arena said the remarks deserve serious consideration.

“Anthony Zerilli was reputed to be the underboss of the Detroit organized crime family, so he would have been in the know,” Arena said.

Zerilli’s criminal record includes a 2002 conviction for conspiracy and extortion. He was sentenced to six years in prison.

Hoffa, Teamsters president from 1957-71, was an acquaintance of mobsters and adversary to federal officials. The day he disappeared, he was supposed to meet with a New Jersey Teamsters boss and a Detroit Mafia captain.



# Asia

## Cleric fires up Pakistanis, demands govt resign

**ISLAMABAD (AP)**—A cleric who has fired up Pakistanis angry at perceived government corruption and indifference demanded the country's political leaders resign in a speech to thousands of his supporters who amassed in the capital early Tuesday.

The dramatic entry into Pakistani politics of Tahir-ul-Qadri, a preacher who until recently lived in Canada, has sparked concern from some that he is seeking to derail elections at the behest of the powerful army. Polls are expected this spring.

Qadri has denied that and insisted his vague demands for election reform are simply meant to root out corruption in the political system. He pledged several weeks ago to lead a "million-man march" on Islamabad to press his demands.

During a 40-minute speech delivered behind bullet-proof glass in the early morning, Qadri told his supporters that the government's mandate was finished.

"I give you time until tomorrow to dissolve national and all four provincial assemblies otherwise the nation will dissolve them on their own," he said. He vowed to address his followers again in the morning in front of the parliament building.

Qadri called on the demonstrators to break through the containers blocking them from the government offices and peacefully march toward the protected enclave that is often called the "red zone" in Islamabad.

Following his cry, some of the marchers pushed aside the shipping containers that had been placed on the street to block them and walked toward the enclave. There another row

of shipping containers and a heavy police presence blocked them from going any further and the protesters appeared to stop. There were no clashes with security authorities, and the rally appeared to be largely peaceful.

Qadri put the crowd assembled on the main avenue leading to the government center at 4 million but far fewer were actually in attendance. One city official put the number of protesters at roughly 30,000. He did not want to be identified because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Many in the crowd waved green and white Pakistani flags and wore buttons emblazoned with the cleric's picture.

Qadri has called for vaguely-worded reforms to the electoral system such as making sure candidates for office are free of corruption. His words have inspired many Pakistanis who are frustrated with a government that they say has given them nothing but unemployment, electricity blackouts, and terror attacks as its five-year term comes to an end.

"There is no electricity and no gas, and the government has done nothing," said Faizan Baig, a 23-year-old pharmaceutical company worker who traveled to Islamabad from the northwest town of Abbottabad. "Qadri feels pain for the people, while the government feels no pain for the people."

Security was heavy throughout the city although the rally appeared to be largely peaceful. Thousands police in riot gear protected the streets, and cell phones were jammed after the government warned that militants were planning to attack the protesters.



Supporters of Pakistani Sunni Muslim cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri, rest in a cold weather at an anti government rally in Islamabad, Pakistan Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013.

## India's army chief warns Pakistan of retaliation

**NEW DELHI (AP)**—India's army chief on Monday accused Pakistan of planning an attack in which two Indian soldiers were killed in the disputed Kashmir region last week, and warned of possible retaliation. Gen. Bikram Singh's strong words are a clear message that India believes the Jan. 8 attack was a deliberate provocation and not an unintentional skirmish of the kind that often breaks out along the Line of Control, the de facto border between the two archrivals in the Himalayan territory.

Pakistan did not immediately respond to the comments, which are likely to raise tensions further.

The tit-for-tat fighting began Jan. 6 when Pakistan accused Indian troops of raiding an army post and killing a soldier. India denied attacking the post, and said its troops fired across the border in response to Pakistani shelling that destroyed a home on the Indian side.

On Jan. 8, India claimed Pakistani soldiers, taking advantage of heavy fog, crossed the border and killed two Indian soldiers and beheaded one of them.

Pakistan denies India's allegations and has suggested U.N. monitors in the region conduct an inquiry—a call that India re-

jected, saying it didn't want to internationalize the issue.

"The attack on Jan. 8 was premeditated, a pre-planned activity. Such an operation requires planning, detailed reconnaissance," Singh told reporters. He said India reserved the right to retaliate at a "time and place of its choice."

Singh urged his troops to be "aggressive and offensive in the face of provocation and fire" from Pakistan. He said the alleged beheading of the Indian soldier was "unacceptable and unpardonable" and accused Pakistan of violating

the "ethics of warfare."

Tensions escalated further on Jan. 10 when Pakistan said Indian troops fired across the border and killed another one of its soldiers. The Pakistani army said the shooting was unprovoked, while the Indian military said its troops were responding to fire from across the frontier.

Both countries accused each other of violating a 2003 ceasefire and have summoned their envoys to lodge protests.

Singh spoke hours before Indian and Pakistani military commanders met to defuse tensions along the Line of Control.

## Karzai: US troop immunity up to Afghan elders

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—The Afghan president said Monday that a meeting of the nation's elders should convene to decide whether U.S. troops staying in the country after 2014 would be immune from prosecution under Afghan law.

President Hamid Karzai's remarks were his first since returning from Washington, where he met last week with President Barack Obama about the future of the alliance between the two countries.

This was also the first time Karzai has floated the idea that Afghans should hold a "loya jirga"—a national assembly of elders—to make the decision on U.S. troop immunity.

The United States has said that it needs to maintain sole legal jurisdiction over its forces in Afghanistan as part of the agreement for forces that will stay after 2014. In Iraq, it was the Iraqi government's refusal to grant such jurisdiction that

caused U.S. troops to completely quit that country.

"We want our national sovereignty and the Americans want the safety of their soldiers," Karzai said in Kabul. "They don't want their soldiers to be under the laws of another country."

Karzai appeared to be trying to strike a conciliatory note, in sharp contrast to the harsh rhetoric and demands ahead of his U.S. trip.

However, he stressed that the issue of U.S. troop immunity was not up to his administration to decide.

"The Afghan government cannot make that decision. It is the decision of the people of Afghanistan. So a loya jirga of the people of Afghanistan should decide," he said.

Loya jirgas have traditionally been used in the country to make major decisions. The last such meeting occurred in November 2011, when Karzai called elders together to discuss whether they should enter

into negotiations with the U.S. about a long-term partnership agreement.

Karzai's tone throughout his speech was solicitous of the United States.

He said his talks with Obama were "very calm" and that the two leaders did not argue. He also said that his delegation received a warm welcome in Washington and told the Afghan people that they should be thankful for the help provided by the United States.

It was a departure from the rhetoric that characterized many of his speeches to the Afghan nation over the last year—in which he regularly demanded new rules for his U.S. allies and accused them of trying to occupy his country.

It may have been a sign that statements from the U.S. administration about the possibility of pulling all troops out of Afghanistan in 2014 had caused Karzai to soften his tone.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### North Korea vows to bolster war deterrence

**PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)**—North Korea vowed Monday to strengthen its defenses amid concerns the country may conduct a nuclear test as a follow-up to last month's long-range rocket launch. Citing U.S. hostility, Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry said in a memorandum that North Korea will "continue to strengthen its deterrence against all forms of war." The memorandum carried by state media did not say what action North Korea would take to defend itself. However, North Korea has claimed the right to build atomic weapons to protect itself from the United States, which stations more than 28,000 troops in South Korea.

#### Sri Lankan lawyers denounce sacking of top judge

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)**—Sri Lanka's leading lawyers on Monday denounced President Mahinda Rajapaksa's dismissal of the chief justice as illegal and said they still recognize Shirani Bandaranayake as the South Asian country's top judge. Lawyers and activists said Rajapaksa and the Parliament he controls violated the constitution by trying to remove Bandaranayake, and

that any attempt to replace her could precipitate a constitutional crisis. The U.S. State Department expressed deep concern about the impeachment of the chief justice. Spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said there are serious questions about "the health and future of Sri Lanka's democracy." Rajapaksa on Sunday ratified a parliamentary vote to dismiss Bandaranayake, saying she has been found guilty of having unexplained wealth and misuse of power.

#### Snow forces 3,400 to spend night at Tokyo airport

**TOKYO (AP)**—Tokyo's Narita International Airport operator says 3,400 travelers spent the night in the terminal after snow caused airlines to cancel 71 flights. In the season's first snowfall in the Japanese capital, about 8 centimeters (3 inches) of snow fell in central Tokyo and around Narita on Monday—a national holiday in Japan. The snow snarled traffic and caused train delays. Airport officials distributed sleeping bags, water and crackers to stranded travelers. Normal flight operations at Narita resumed Tuesday, except for a few delays. Major train operator JR East said trains were running on schedule Tuesday.



## World

## Mali rebels make gains, vow to avenge French bombs

**BAMAKO, Mali (AP)**—Despite a punishing bombardment by French warplanes, al-Qaida-linked insurgents grabbed more territory in Mali on Monday, seizing a strategic military camp that brought them far closer to the government's seat of power.

Declaring France had "opened the gates of hell" with its assault, the rebels threatened retribution.

"France ... has fallen into a trap much more dangerous than Iraq, Afghanistan or Somalia," said Omar Ould Hamaha, a leader of the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa, one of the rebel groups controlling the north, speaking on radio Europe 1.

French fighter jets have been pummeling the insurgents' desert stronghold in the north since Friday, determined to shatter the Islamist domination of a region many fear could become a launch pad for terrorist attacks on the West and a base for coordination with al-Qaida in Yemen, Somalia and Pakistan.

The Islamist fighters responded with a counter-offensive Monday, overrunning the garrison town of Diabaly, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of Segou, the administrative capital of central Mali, said French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian.

The French Embassy in Bamako immediately ordered the evacuation of the roughly 60



A public transport minibus is stopped by Malian soldiers at a checkpoint at the entrance to Markala, approximately 40 km outside Segou on the road to Diabaly, in central Mali, Monday, Jan. 14, 2013.

French nationals in the Segou region, said a French citizen who insisted on anonymity out of fear for her safety. France expanded its aerial bombing campaign, launching airstrikes for the first time in central Mali to combat the new threat. But the intense assault, including raids by gunship helicopters and Mirage fighter jets, failed to halt the

advance of the rebels, who were only 250 miles (400 kilometers) from the capital, Bamako, in the far south.

The rebels "took Diabaly after fierce fighting and resistance from the Malian army, that couldn't hold them back," said Le Drian, the French defense minister.

Mali's military is in disarray and has let many towns fall

with barely a shot fired since the insurgency in the West African nation began almost a year ago. While the al-Qaida-linked extremists control the north, they had been blocked in the narrow central part of the landlocked nation.

They appear to have now done a flanking move, opening a second front in the broad

southern section of the country, knifing in from the west on government forces.

In response to the insurgent advances, Mauritania, which lies to the northwest of Mali, put its military on high alert. To the south, the nation of Burkina Faso sent military reinforcements to its border and set up roadblocks. Even Algeria, which had earlier

## Syria bombs Damascus suburbs to keep rebels out

**BEIRUT (AP)**—The Syrian government bombed areas around Damascus on Monday as part of its push to keep rebel fighters out of the capital, leaving many children among the dozens killed, anti-regime activists said.

An international aid organization cited such raids, along with rape and widespread destruction, as key factors in the exodus of more than a half-million Syrians to neighboring countries since the conflict began in March 2011.

The International Rescue Committee said it could be "months, if not years" before the refugees can return home and warned that

Syria's civil war could enflame tensions in the Middle East.

After nearly two years of violence, it appears unlikely that the war will end soon. Although rebels seeking to oust President Bashar Assad have made gains in the country's north and east and outside of Damascus, they have yet to seriously challenge his hold on the capital or other parts of the country. Earlier this month, Assad dismissed calls from the U.S. and others that he step down and vowed to keep fighting until the country is free of "terrorists"—his government's shorthand for rebels.

International diplomacy has done little to bridge the gap.

In a report released Monday, the International Rescue Committee painted a grim picture of what life has become for Syrians in war-torn areas.

Syrians face brutal killings, arbitrary arrests, torture, frequent airstrikes, sexual violence and diminishing medical services, the report said.

The 32-page report, based on interviews with Syrian refugees in Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon and Iraq in November 2012, said that many who fled the country cited rape as a primary reason.

"Many women and girls relayed accounts of being attacked in public or in their homes, primarily by armed men," the report said. "These rapes, sometimes by multiple perpetrators, often occur in front of family members."

The group did not say if the alleged perpetrators were rebels or government forces.

Anti-regime activists have reported rapes by government soldiers or pro-government thugs, and U.N. war crimes investigators reported in August that government forces and allied militias were responsible for

murders, rapes and indiscriminate attacks on civilians.

The report warned that violence could keep Syria's refugees in neighboring countries for years, taxing the resources of host governments and enflaming domestic tensions, particularly in Jordan and Lebanon. It called for greater international aid in and outside of Syria as well as open borders to allow those threatened by violence to escape.

Violence continued inside Syria on Monday, as government fighter jets carried out lethal airstrikes on rebellious areas near the capital, Damascus.

## Mubarak's new trial could answer a key question

**CAIRO (AP)**—Hosni Mubarak's new trial may resolve key questions unanswered in his first one: Who ordered the crackdown that left some 900 protesters dead and who pulled the trigger?

But the answers could complicate the new president's efforts to stabilize Egypt and deal with its economic woes since they might bring pressure to go after still powerful figures in the security forces.

Mubarak and former Interior Minister Habib el-Adly were sentenced to life in prison in June for failing to prevent the killings during the 18-day revolution

in 2011 that toppled the leader's 29-year regime. Standing trial with them were six police generals, five who faced the same charges, while the sixth was accused of gross negligence. All six were acquitted.

The ruling raised widespread public anger over what was seen as a shoddy prosecution case. Many believed Mubarak should have been convicted for directly ordering the lethal crackdown.

The presiding judge of that first trial said the prosecution's case lacked concrete evidence and failed to prove the protest-

ers were killed by the police, indirectly giving credence to the testimony of top Mubarak-era officials that "foreigners" were behind the slayings between Jan. 25 and Feb. 1, 2011.

Nearly 100 police officers have been brought to trial in a string of cases over the nearly two years since Mubarak's Feb. 11, 2011, ouster. All were acquitted or received suspended sentences on charges of killing and wounding protesters, a trend that has angered those behind the uprising who say authoritarian rule cannot truly be ended without dismantling what

is left of the Mubarak regime, particularly in the large police force and pervasive security agencies.

On Sunday, Egypt's main appeals court overturned the life sentences against Mubarak and el-Adly and ordered a new trial for the two. It also granted the prosecution's request to overturn the acquittals of Mubarak, his two sons and an associate of the former president, Hussein Salem, on corruption charges. Salem was tried in absentia and remains at large. Six police generals who were found not guilty also will be tried again.

No date has been set for the new trial and no word on whether they would be all be tried together or separately.

Mubarak's supporters cheered the decision, which came in response to an appeal by the former leader's lawyers.

But the outcome of the new trial could bring a new setback for the 84-year-old ousted leader.

If convicted again, the life sentence passed against Mubarak and el-Adly would be upheld. They could also have their sentence reduced or even be acquitted.

## WORLD BRIEFS

## 19 killed in Egypt train crash

**CAIRO (AP)**—At least 19 people died and more than 100 were injured when two railroad passenger cars derailed just south of Cairo after midnight Monday, health officials said. The accident comes less than two weeks after a new transportation minister was appointed to overhaul the rail system, and just two months after a deadly collision between a train and school bus. The official MENA news agency quoted Health Ministry officials who said that the 107 wounded were being treated in hospitals near the site of the accident in Giza's Badrasheen neighborhood. They said the number of dead is expected to rise.

## Court denies Berlusconi bid to halt sex trial

**MILAN (AP)**—A Milan court on Monday rejected a bid by former Premier Silvio Berlusconi to halt his sex-for-hire trial for Italy's general election campaign, a ruling that makes a verdict likely before the February vote. Berlusconi's lawyer accused the court of "interfering heavily" in the Italian political campaign by refusing to suspend the trial so Berlusconi can dedicate himself to campaigning for his center-right coalition. "A verdict will most certainly come before the election. It seems to me this is the clear intent of the court," defense lawyer Niccolo Ghedini told reporters. "It doesn't bother us, but it should bother citizens since it is obvious that it will impact the electoral campaign." Berlusconi denounced the trial as "a comedy, a farce, a defamatory hoax," in an interview with Sky TG24.

## Russian soldiers to trade foot wraps for socks

**MOSCOW (AP)**—A Russian official says it's time for the nation's soldiers to switch from foot wraps to socks. Since the late 17th century, Russian soldiers have been using wraps, rectangular strips of cloth that are carefully wrapped around their bare feet to prevent blisters from tall heavy boots with no laces. But Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, who took the post two months ago, said he was surprised to learn that some soldiers are still using the wraps, called "portyanki" in Russian, and told them to use socks instead. At a televised meeting with military officers Monday, he said, "In 2013, or at least by the end of 2013, we must forget the word portyanki." Czar Peter the Great adopted the custom from the Dutch army in the late 17th century.



## Focus

By RUKMINI CALLIMACHI  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BAMAKO, Mali (AP)**—Deep inside caves, in remote desert bases, in the escarpments and cliff faces of northern Mali, Islamic extremist fighters have been burrowing into the earth, erecting a formidable set of defenses to protect what has essentially become al-Qaida's new country.

They have used the bulldozers, earth movers and Caterpillar machines left behind by fleeing construction crews to dig what residents and local officials describe as an elaborate network of tunnels, trenches, shafts and ramparts. In just one case, inside a cave large enough to drive trucks into, they have stored up to 100 drums of gasoline, guaranteeing their fuel supply in the face of a foreign intervention, according to experts.

Now that intervention is here. On Friday, France deployed 550 troops and launched air strikes against the Islamists in northern Mali, starting battle in what is currently the biggest territory in the world held by al-Qaida and its allies. But the fighting has been harder than expected, and the extremists boast it will be worse than the decade-old struggle in Afghanistan.

"Al-Qaida never owned Afghanistan," said former United Nations diplomat Robert Fowler, a Canadian kidnapped and held for 130 days by al-Qaida's local chapter, whose fighters now control the main cities in the north. "They do own northern Mali."

Al-Qaida's affiliate in Africa—al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, or AQIM—has been a shadowy presence for years in the forests and deserts of Mali, a country hobbled by poverty and a relentless cycle of hunger. Last year the terror syndicate and its allies took advantage of political instability in Mali to push out of their hiding place and into the towns, taking over an enormous territory larger than France or Texas—and almost exactly the size of Afghanistan.

The catalyst for the Islamic fighters was a military coup nine months ago by disgruntled soldiers, which transformed Mali from a once-stable nation to the failed state it is today. The fall of the nation's democratically elected government at the hands of junior officers destroyed the military's command-and-control structure, creating the vacuum which allowed a mix of rebel groups to move in.

After the international community debated for months over what to do, the United Nations Security Council called for a military intervention on condition that an exhaustive list of preemptive measures be taken, starting with training the Malian military. All that changed in a matter of hours last week, when French intelligence services spotted two rebel convoys heading south toward the towns of Segou and Mopti. Had either town fallen, many feared the Islamists would advance toward the capital, Bamako.

Over the weekend, Britain authorized sending several transport planes to bring in French troops. Other African nations have authorized sending troops, and the U.S. has pledged communications and logistical support.

The area under the rule of the Islamist fighters is mostly desert and sparsely

# Al-Qaida carves out own country in Mali



In this Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013 photo, volunteers donate blood to support Mali's army in their fight against al-Qaida linked militants controlling the country's north, at the International Conference Center in Bamako, Mali.

populated, but analysts say that due to its size and the hostile nature of the terrain, rooting out the extremists here could prove even more difficult than it did in Afghanistan. Mali's former president has acknowledged, diplomatic cables show, that the country cannot patrol a frontier twice the length of the border between the United States and Mexico.

AQIM operates not just in Mali, but in a corridor along much of the northern Sahel. This 7,000-kilometer (4,300-mile) long ribbon of land runs across the widest part of Africa, and includes sections of Mauritania, Niger, Algeria, Libya, Burkina Faso and Chad.

"One could come up with a conceivable containment strategy for the Swat Valley," said Africa expert Peter Pham, an adviser to the U.S. military's African command center, referring to the region of Pakistan where Taliban fighters once dominated. "There's no containment strategy for the Sahel, which runs from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea."

The Islamists in northern Mali had been preparing for battle long before the French announcement, according to elected officials and residents in Kidal, Timbuktu and Gao, including a day laborer hired by al-Qaida's local chapter to clear rocks and debris for one of their defenses. They spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear for their safety at the hands of the Islamists, who have previously accused those who speak to reporters of espionage.

The al-Qaida affiliate, which became part of the terror network in 2006, is one of three Islamist groups in northern Mali. The others are the Movement for the Unity and Jihad in West Africa, or MUJAO, based in Gao, and Ansar Dine, based in Kidal. Analysts

agree that there is considerable overlap among the groups, and that all three can be considered sympathizers, even extensions, of al-Qaida.

The Islamic fighters have stolen equipment from construction companies, including more than \$11 million worth from a French company called SOGEA-SATOM, according to Elie Arama, who works with the European Development Fund. The company had been contracted to build a European Union-financed highway in the north between Timbuktu and the village of Goma Coura. An employee of SOGEA-SATOM in Bamako declined to comment.

The official from Kidal said his constituents have reported seeing Islamic fighters with construction equipment riding in convoys behind 4-by-4 trucks draped with their signature black flag. His contacts among the fighters, including friends from secondary school, have told him they have created two bases, around 200 to 300 kilometers (120 and 180 miles) north of Kidal, in the austere, rocky desert.

The first base is occupied by al-Qaida's local fighters in the hills of Teghergharte, a region the official compared to Afghanistan's Tora Bora.

"The Islamists have dug tunnels, made roads, they've brought in generators, and solar panels in order to have electricity," he said. "They live inside the rocks."

Still further north, near Boghassa, is the second base, created by fighters from Ansar Dine. They, too, have used seized explosives, bulldozers and sledgehammers to make passages in the hills, he said.

In addition to creating defenses, the

fighters are amassing supplies, experts said. A local who was taken by Islamists into a cave in the region of Kidal described an enormous room, where several cars were parked. Along the walls, he counted up to 100 barrels of gasoline, according to the man's testimony to New York-based Human Rights Watch.

In the regional capital of Gao, a young man told The Associated Press that he and several others were offered 10,000 francs a day by al-Qaida's local commanders (around \$20), a rate several times the normal wage, to clear rocks and debris, and dig trenches. The youth said he saw Caterpillars and earth movers inside an Islamist camp at a former Malian military base 7 kilometers (4 miles) from Gao.

The fighters are piling mountains of sand from the ground along the dirt roads to force cars onto the pavement, where they have checkpoints everywhere, he said. In addition, they are modifying their all-terrain vehicles to mount them with arms.

"On the backs of their cars, it looks like they are mounting pipes," he said, describing a shape he thinks might be a rocket or missile launcher. "They are preparing themselves. Everyone is scared."

A university student from Gao confirmed seeing the modified cars. He said he also saw deep holes dug on the sides of the highway, possibly to give protection to fighters shooting at cars, along with cement barriers with small holes for guns.

In Gao, residents routinely see Moktar Belmoktar, the one-eyed emir of the al-Qaida-linked cell that grabbed Fowler in 2008. Belmoktar, a native Algerian, traveled to Afghanistan in the

1980s and trained in Osama bin Laden's camp in Jalalabad, according to research by the Jamestown Foundation. His lieutenant Oumar Ould Hamaha, whom Fowler identified as one of his captors, brushed off questions about the tunnels and caves but said the fighters are prepared.

"We consider this land our land. It's an Islamic territory," he said, reached by telephone in an undisclosed location.

He added that the Islamists have recruited new fighters, including from Western countries.

In December, two U.S. citizens from Alabama were arrested on terrorism charges, accused of planning to fly to Morocco and travel by land to Mali to wage jihad, or holy war. Two French nationals have also been detained on suspicion of trying to travel to northern Mali to join the Islamists. Hamaha himself said he spent a month in France preaching his fundamentalist version of Islam in Parisian mosques after receiving a visa for all European Union countries in 2001.

Hamaha indicated the Islamists have inherited stores of Russian-made arms from former Malian army bases, as well as from the arsenal of toppled Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, a claim that military experts have confirmed.

Those weapons include the SA-7 and SA-2 surface-to-air missiles, according to Hamaha, which can shoot down aircrafts. His claim could not be verified, but Rudolph Atallah, the former counterterrorism director for Africa in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, said it makes sense.

"Gadhafi bought everything under the sun," said Atallah, a retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel, who has traveled extensively to Mali on defense missions. "His weapons depots were packed with all kinds of stuff, so it's plausible that AQIM now has surface-to-air missiles."

Depending on the model, these missiles can range far enough to bring down planes used by ill-equipped African air forces, he said. However, they will be far less effective against the forces of the West, with their better equipment.

Another factor in the success of military intervention will be the reaction of the people, who, unlike in Afghanistan, have little history of extremism. Malians have long practiced a moderate form of Islam, where women do not wear burqas and few practice the strict form of the religion. The Islamists are imposing a far more severe form of Islam on the towns of the north, carrying out amputations in public squares, flogging women for not covering up and destroying world heritage sites.

The Islamists' recent advances draw on al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb's near decade of experience in Mali's northern desert, where Fowler and his fellow U.N. colleague were held captive for four months in 2008, an experience he recounts in his recent book, "A Season in Hell."

Originally from Algeria, the fighters fled across the border into Mali in 2003, after kidnapping 32 European tourists. Over the next decade, they used the country's vast northern desert to hold French, Spanish, Swiss, German, British, Austrian, Italian and Canadian hostages, raising an estimated \$89 million in ransom payments, according to Stratfor, a global intelligence company.



# Campus Life

**D**id your kids moan that winter break was way too short as you got them ready for the first day back in school? They might get their wish of more holiday time off under proposals catching on around the country to lengthen the school year.

But there's a catch: a much shorter summer vacation.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan, a chief proponent of the longer school year, says American students have fallen behind the world academically.

"Whether educators have more time to enrich instruction or students have more time to learn how to play an instrument and write computer code, adding meaningful in-school hours is a critical investment that better prepares children to be successful in the 21st century," he said in December when five states announced they would add at least 300 hours to the academic calendar in some schools beginning this year.

The three-year pilot project will affect about 20,000 students in 40 schools in Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Tennessee.

Proponents argue that too much knowledge is lost while American kids wile away the summer months apart from their lessons. The National Summer Learning Association cites decades of research that shows students' test scores are higher in the same subjects at the beginning of the summer than at the end.

"The research is very clear about that," said Charles Ballinger, executive director emeritus of the National Association for Year-Round School in San Diego. "The only ones who don't lose are the upper 10 to 15 percent of the student body. Those tend to be gifted, college-bound, they're natural learners who will learn wherever they are."

Supporters also say a longer school year would give poor children more access to school-provided healthy meals.

Yet the movement has plenty of detractors—so many that Ballinger sometimes feels like the Grinch trying to steal Christmas.

"I had a parent at one meeting say, 'I want my child to lie on his back in the grass watching the clouds in the sky during the day and the moon and stars at night,'" Ballinger recalled. "I thought, 'Oh, my. Most kids do that for two, three, maybe four days, then say, 'What's next?'"

But opponents aren't simply dreamy romantics.

Besides the outdoor opportunities for pent up youngsters, they say families already are beholden to the school calendar for three seasons out of four. Summer breaks, they say, are needed to provide an academic respite for students' overwrought minds, and to provide time with family and the flexibility to travel and study



AP  
In this Friday, April 15, 2011 photo, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan is questioned by student Trebor Goodall, right, as he's videotaped by fellow student Faith Brown during a tour of the Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School in Indianapolis.

## Will longer school year help or hurt US students?

By JULIE CARR SMYTH  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

favorite subjects in more depth. They note that advocates of year-round school cannot point to any evidence that it brings appreciable academic benefits.

"I do believe that if children have not mastered a subject that, within a week, personally, I see a slide in my own child," said Tina Bruno, executive director of the Coalition for a Traditional School Calendar. "That's where the idea of parental involvement and parental responsibility in education comes in, because our children cannot and should not be in school seven days a week, 365 days a year."

Bruno is part of a "Save Our Summers" alliance of parents, grandparents, educational professionals and some summer-time recreation providers fighting year-round school. Local chapters carry names such as Georgians Need Summers, Texans for a Traditional School Year and Save Alabama Summers.

Camps, hotel operators and other summer-specific indus-

tries raise red flags about the potential economic effect.

The debate has divided parents and educators.

School days shorter than work days and summer breaks that extend to as many as 12 weeks in some areas run up against increasing political pressure from working households - 30 percent of which are headed by women. These families must fill the gaps with afterschool programs, day care, babysitters and camps.

"Particularly where there are single parents or where both parents are working, they prefer to provide care for three weeks at a time rather than three months at a time," Ballinger said.

The National Center on Time & Learning has estimated that about 1,000 districts have adopted longer school days or years.

Some places that have tried the year-round calendar, including Salt Lake City, Las Vegas and parts of California, have

returned to the traditional approach. Strapped budgets and parental dissatisfaction were among reasons.

School years are extended based on three basic models:

- stretching the traditional 180 days of school across the whole calendar year by lengthening spring and winter breaks and shortening the one in the summer.
- adding 20 to 30 actual days of instruction to the 180-day calendar.
- dividing students and staff into groups, typically four, and rotating three through at a time, with one on vacation, throughout the calendar year.

At the heart of the debate is nothing less than the ability of America's workforce to compete globally.

The U.S. remains in the top dozen or so countries in all tested subjects. But even where U.S. student scores have improved, many other nations have improved much faster, leaving American stu-

dents far behind peers in Asia and Europe.

Still, data are far from clear that more hours behind a desk can help.

A Center for Public Education review found that students in India and China—countries Duncan has pointed to as giving children more classroom time than the U.S.—don't actually spend more time in school than American kids, when disparate data are converted to apples-to-apples comparisons.

The center, an initiative of the National School Boards Association, found 42 U.S. states require more than 800 instructional hours a year for their youngest students, and that's more than India does.

Opponents of extended school point out that states such as Minnesota and Massachusetts steadily shine on standardized achievement tests while preserving their summer break with a post-Labor Day school start.

"It makes sense that more time is going to equate to more learning, but then you have to equate that to more professional development for teachers—will that get more bang for the buck?" said Patte Barth, the center's director. "I look at it, and teachers and instruction are still the most important factor more so than time."

The center's study also found that some nations that outperform the U.S. academically, such as Finland, require less school.

Many schools are experimenting with the less controversial, less costly interim step of lengthening the school day instead of adding days to the school year.

Chicago's public schools extended the school day from 5 hours and 45 minutes to 7 hours last year after a heated offensive by unionized teachers and some parents. Mayor Rahm Emanuel, former chief of staff to Duncan's boss, President Barack Obama, initially pushed an even longer school day—a major sticking point in this year's seven-day teachers' strike. He and other proponents argued that having the shortest school day among the nation's 50 largest districts and one of the shortest school years had put Chicago's children at a competitive disadvantage.

Wendy Katten, executive director of Raise Your Hand for Illinois Public Education, said opponents held back a push for a 7.5-hour school day, and got an extra staff person assigned to each school to handle the additional hour and 15 minutes of school time.

In San Diego, year-round school has been a reality since the 1970s.

District spokesman Jack Brandais said the concept was initially intended to relieve crowding, not improve performance test scores. The student body and staff were divided into four groups, with three attending school at any given time.

Through decades of fine-tuning, Brandais said the district now runs both traditional and year-round tracks simultaneously.

A 2007 study by Ohio State University sociologist Paul von Hippel found virtually no difference in the academic gains of students who followed a traditional nine-month school calendar and those educated the same number of days spread across the entire year.

Amid budget cuts and teacher layoffs, San Diego has cut five instructional days from both year-round and traditional schedules since last year.



## Life & Style

# AP source: Armstrong tells Oprah Winfrey he doped

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)**—After a decade of denial, Lance Armstrong has finally come clean: He used performance-enhancing drugs to win the Tour de France.

The disgraced cyclist made the confession to Oprah Winfrey during an interview taped Monday, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the interview is to be broadcast Thursday on Winfrey's network.

The admission Monday came hours after an emotional apology by Armstrong to the Livestrong charity that he founded and took global on the strength of his celebrity as a cancer survivor who came back to win one of sport's most grueling events.

The confession was a stunning reversal, after years of public statements, interviews and court battles in which he denied doping and zealously protected

his reputation.

Winfrey tweeted afterward, "Just wrapped with (at) lancearmstrong More than 2 1/2 hours. He came READY!" She was scheduled to appear on "CBS This Morning" on Tuesday to discuss the interview.

Even before the taping session with Winfrey began around 2 p.m., EST, Armstrong's apology suggested he would carry through on promises over the weekend to answer her questions "directly, honestly and candidly."

The cyclist was stripped of his Tour de France titles, lost most of his endorsements and was forced to leave the foundation last year after the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency issued a damning, 1,000-page report



In this Feb. 15, 2011 file photo, Lance Armstrong pauses during an interview in Austin, Texas. Local and international news crews are staking out positions in front of Armstrong's lush, Spanish-style villa ahead of the cyclist's interview with Oprah Winfrey later Monday, Jan. 14, 2013.

that accused him of masterminding a long-running doping scheme.

About 100 staff members of the charity Armstrong founded in 1997 gathered in a conference

room as Armstrong arrived with a simple message: "I'm sorry." He choked up during a 20-minute talk, expressing regret for the long-running controversy tied to performance-enhancers

had caused, but stopped short of admitting he used them.

Before he was done, several members were in tears when he urged them to continue the charity's mission, helping cancer patients and their families.

"Heartfelt and sincere," is how Livestrong spokesman Katherine McLane described his speech.

Armstrong later huddled with almost a dozen people before stepping into a room set up at a downtown Austin hotel for the interview.

The group included close friends and advisers, two of his lawyers and Bill Stapleton, his agent, manager and business partner. They exchanged handshakes and smiles, but declined comment when approached by a reporter. Most members of that group left the hotel through the front entrance around 5 p.m., although Armstrong was not with them.

No further details about the interview were available immediately because of confidentiality agreements signed by both camps. But Winfrey promoted it as a "no-holds barred" session, and after the voluminous USADA report—which included testimony from 11 former teammates—

she had plenty of material for questions. USADA chief executive Travis Tygart, a long-time critic of Armstrong's, called the drug regimen practiced while Armstrong led the U.S. Postal Service team, "The most sophisticated, professionalized and successful doping program that sport has ever seen."

Armstrong also went after his critics ruthlessly during his reign as cycling champion. He scolded some in public and didn't hesitate to punish outspoken riders during the race itself. He waged legal battles against still others in court.

Betsy Andreu, the wife of former Armstrong teammate Frankie Andreu, was one of the first to publicly accuse Armstrong of using performance-enhancing drugs. She called news of Armstrong's confession "very emotional and very sad," and got choked up as well when asked to comment.

"He used to be one of my husband's best friends and because he wouldn't go along with the doping, he got kicked to the side. Lance could have a positive impact if he tells the truth on everything. He's got to be completely honest," she said.

## Coroner releases new report on Natalie Wood death

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Some of the bruises found on Natalie Wood's body may have occurred before the actress drowned in the waters off Southern California more than 30 years ago, according to a newly released coroner's report on one of Hollywood's most mysterious deaths.

The case took another twist Monday when officials released a 10-page addendum to Wood's 1981 autopsy that cites unexplained bruises and scratches on Wood's face and arms as significant factors that led to officials changing her death certificate last year from a drowning to "drowning and other undetermined factors."

Officials were careful about their conclusions because they lacked several pieces of evidence for their review.

Bruises on Wood's arms, a scratch on her neck and superficial abrasions to the actress' face may have occurred before Wood ended up in the waters off Catalina Island in November 1981, but coroner's officials wrote they could not definitely determine when the injuries occurred.

The findings have not altered a sheriff's department investigation into Wood's death, which a spokesman described as ongoing.

Wood, 43, was on a yacht with her actor-husband Robert Wagner, co-star Christopher Walken and the boat captain on Thanksgiving weekend in 1981 before somehow ending up in the water. A dinghy that had been attached to the boat was found along the island's shoreline, but investigators could not locate it to review it last year.

Investigators initially reported that there were scratches on its hull, but Wood's fingernails were not preserved for analysis.

The initial autopsy report said it was likely the bruises happened when Wood drowned. "Most of the bruises on the body are superficial and probably sustained at the time of drowning," the initial autopsy report stated.

Several of the original coroner's investigators who worked

on the case were re-interviewed, and officials attempted to test some items taken during the investigation into Wood's death and an autopsy, but they could not be located.

"The location of the bruises, the multiplicity of the bruises, lack of head trauma, or facial bruising support bruising having occurred prior to entry in the water," the amended report states. "Since there are unanswered questions and limited additional evidence available for evaluation, it is opined by this Medical Examiner that the



Wood

*In Celebration of His New Life*

† **Xarius Anthony Echon Aguon**

Born on August 30, 2010 has been called to his eternal rest on Monday, January 14, 2013 at the age of 2 years.

Mass is offered 6pm nightly at San Antonio Parish.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 9:00am on Thursday, January 17, 2013 at San Antonio Parish followed by the interment service at the Tanapag Cemetery.

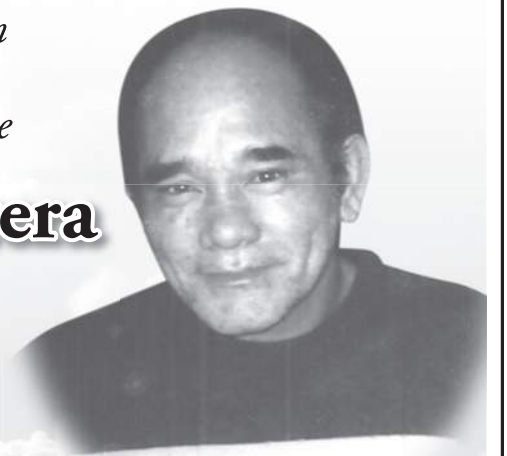
Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

**The Family**

### Message of Appreciation

We the family of the late

† **Manuel Cabrera Sablan**



Would like extend our sincerest gratitude for all the prayers, condolences, support that you have extended to us during his time of sickness, his death and funeral.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to the CHC Medical Referral Staff, the San Antonio Priest and Choir, the Cabrera Center Funeral Services and to the techa Mrs. Rose Magofna.

Thank you to all our family and friends.

We will forever be grateful and forever keep you in our prayers.

*Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase*

**From Consolacion C. Sablan & Children**



## Gay community hails Foster's halting Globes speech

NEW YORK (AP)—Was it a proud revelation, or an impassioned case for privacy? A coming-out speech, or a why-SHOULD-I-come-out speech? Too little and too late, or just enough?

Jodie Foster's rambling, fascinating and intensely personal remarks at the Golden Globes were not merely the watercooler moment of the ceremony. They were a big moment for the gay community, and many advocates—though not all—were cheering her on Monday for finally referring publicly to her sexual orientation, albeit in her own particular way.

While some were criticizing the actress for not uttering the words “gay” or “lesbian,” and for waiting decades to come out at all, others were saying she deserved to come out in any way she chose, and with any words she happened to favor.

“No doubt, she was partly speaking in code, and she may never have wrapped her words around the fact that she is a lesbian,” said Fred Sainz of the Human Rights Campaign, a national gay rights group. “But everyone watching clearly understood that she was communicating to people that she is gay. She is to be congratulated, no matter how awkward or inarticulate it may have seemed to some. It took an awful lot of courage.”

The moment that Foster, a 50-year-old Oscar winner for “The Silence of the Lambs” and “The Accused,” took the stage to accept the Cecil B. DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award, it was clear she wasn't going to give a run-of-the-mill speech. The huge roomful of TV and movie stars fell rapt with attention.

“I guess I have a sudden urge to say something that I've never really been able to air in public,” said the actress and director, long known for being fiercely private. She suggested she had

Jodie Foster poses with the Cecile B. DeMille Award for outstanding contribution to the entertainment field backstage at the 70th Annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday Jan. 13, 2013, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

AP



something to say that would make her publicist nervous.

“But, you know, I'm just going to put it out there, right? Loud and proud, right? So I'm going to need your support on this,” she said. Then, after a pause: “I am single.”

After some laughter, she added: “Seriously, I hope that you're not disappointed that there won't be a big coming-out speech tonight because I already did my coming-out about a thousand years ago back in the Stone Age.” (A few of her words early in the speech were dropped by the censor; NBC said it was because Foster had uttered the word “Jesus.”)

After joking that celebrities are now expected to reveal they're gay “with a press conference, a fragrance and a prime-time reality show,” the actress quipped: “I am not Honey Boo Boo Child. No. I'm sorry. That's just not me.” And then, more defiantly: “If you had been a public figure from the time that you were a

toddler, if you'd had to fight for a life that felt real and honest and normal against all odds, then maybe you, too, might value privacy above all else.”

Sainz, who is vice president of communications at the HRC, said he understood the claim to privacy. “She wants to be judged on her merits as a director and actress and not necessarily by her private life,” he said. “This shouldn't be the headline of her illustrious career—it's a footnote.”

The privacy argument has come up in other recent instances of celebrities coming out. Last summer, CNN journalist Anderson Cooper confirmed he is gay after years of reluctance to go public. He said that, as a reporter, he had wanted to keep his orientation private for professional reasons, but finally realized that “visibility is important.”

Soon after, R&B star Frank Ocean announced on his Tumblr page that his first love was a man. “I don't have any secrets I need to keep anymore,” Ocean wrote.

And that same month, when pioneering astronaut Sally Ride died, her orientation was disclosed posthumously in an obituary she wrote with her partner of 27 years, Tam O'Shaughnessy. Some were supportive that Ride had chosen privacy in her lifetime; others were not.

On The Huffington Post's “Gay Voices” page on Monday, entertainment writer Deb Baer called Foster a “coward” and said she “could have helped millions of people by coming out years ago.”

“Why am I so angry?” Baer wrote. “Because I'm roughly the same age as Jodie, and yet I had the courage to come out exactly 20 years ago.” She added: “The ‘privacy’ excuse is just that: An excuse.”

The editor of “Gay Voices,” Noah Michelson, said Baer's view was in the minority—most of his site's followers were very happy with Foster's action, he noted—but that he himself had problems with her speech.

Foster's was the night's most jaw-dropping performance, and will surely be discussed and deconstructed for days to come.

But if everything about this year's Globecast didn't make sense right away, one thing—or, rather, a twosome—made perfect sense: Co-hosts Amy Poehler and Tina Fey.

Co-rivals for best actress in a TV comedy or musical, they both lost to “Girls” star Lena Dunham. But they were likely the night's biggest winners.

As fellow “Saturday Night Live” alums and longtime friends, they make perfect comedy partners—Fey, a little more wary and neurotic; Poehler, a little more wide-eyed and goofy. And both of them brilliant and fearless.

They even made sport of arguably the night's most august moment—President Bill Clinton's surprise appearance to introduce the nominated film “Lincoln.”

ing to reveal through her art.

“I'm told that every celebrity is expected to honor the details of their private life with a press conference, a fragrance and a prime-time reality show,” she said. “Privacy: Someday in the future, people will look back and remember how beautiful it once was.”



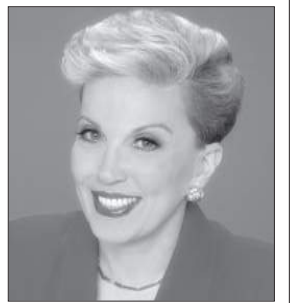
AP

This image released by NBC shows co-host Tina Fey, left, and Amy Poehler on stage during the 70th Annual Golden Globe Awards held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 13, 2013, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Foster took this opportunity to (among other things) go public as a gay woman, or maybe not (“I am single,” she declared, after a teasingly big buildup); announce her retirement from acting and/or show business, or not; and let the world know it should stop pestering her for details of her life beyond what she's will-

## Woman in love with gay man must begin to look elsewhere

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



**DEAR ABBY:** “Myles” and I have known each other for five years, but have grown really close over the past three. We tell each other everything, and I have fallen in love with him.

A few months ago, Myles sent me a text saying he needed to tell me a “secret.” He went on to say the guy he had told me was his brother, “Jeff,” is really his lover.

Needless to say, that bombshell floored me.

We have discussed it in person, and I have never told him how I feel. I visit them a couple of times a month and always go home feeling hurt. I want Myles for myself, even though I know I can't have him. I don't want to lose him as my friend, but it hurts seeing him and Jeff together. How do I resolve this?

Dear Abby

GIRL LEFT BEHIND IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR LEFT BEHIND:** Start by being as honest with Myles as he was with you. Tell him that over the course of your friendship you fell in love with him—and that you wish you had known he was gay before you became so emotionally involved.

If you want romance, you will have to look for it elsewhere. In order for you to find it, I cannot stress strongly enough that you will need to feel good about yourself. Stop torturing yourself by visiting the two lovebirds and take a break for a while. A LONG while.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 36-year-old woman who has never been married or had children. For the past two years I've been seeing a man I'll call Frank. I love him deeply, and I believe he feels the same about me.

Frank is still married but legally separated from his wife. They have one child who lives with his mom. Frank lives with me, and Frank's wife lives with another man and has a second child by yet another guy.

My problem is, Frank's wife calls ME whenever she has a fight with her boyfriend. She confides in me like I'm her best friend. I have never talked to Frank about divorcing her, but I'm at my wit's end over this whole circle. Sometimes I feel like I'm wasting my time with him. Abby, I'm a longtime reader who needs to find a solution to this soap opera. Please help me.

GETTING DIZZY IN EAST BOSTON

**DEAR GETTING DIZZY:** You need to talk to Frank about his degree of commitment to you. Two years is a long time to live with someone who's married to someone else—let alone be trying to solve his wife's love problems. Perhaps it's time to distance yourself from both of them and figure out what you want to do for YOU.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My friend “Maggie” is getting a divorce. She has been living with my husband and me for four months. She pays one-third of our utility bill but pays no rent.

My husband feels that since Maggie is living with us, she should pay something—even if it's only \$100 a month. She's a lifelong friend, and I don't know what to do. Maggie is very upset over her messy divorce. Should I ask her for rent money? (I don't want to fight over this with my husband.)

ONLY FRIEND IN KENTUCKY

**DEAR ONLY FRIEND:** It depends on Maggie's financial circumstances. If she has the money, it's certainly OK to ask. If she doesn't have the resources—or a job—she should consider finding one so she's not completely financially dependent on others.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

## Co-hosts Fey and Poehler prove big Globes winners

NEW YORK (AP)—It was elegant, eloquent, genteel and classy.

Wait—that was “Downton Abbey,” airing Sunday night on another network.

On NBC, it was “The 70th Annual Golden Globes Awards”—the yearly televised blowout lubricated by an open bar where party-favor statuettes are distributed to a lucky few.

Much about the famously quirky Globes (such as: Why? and How?) always needs to be taken on faith. The Globes just are, because they are. And people seem to like it that way, the Globes' quirkiness included.

This year, viewers got a generous dose of Globes weirdness courtesy of Jodie Foster, recipient of the Cecil B. DeMille Award for lifetime achievement.

In a hopped-up, borderline-unhinged confessional that left some in attendance moist-eyed but surely had many more witnesses scratching their heads,

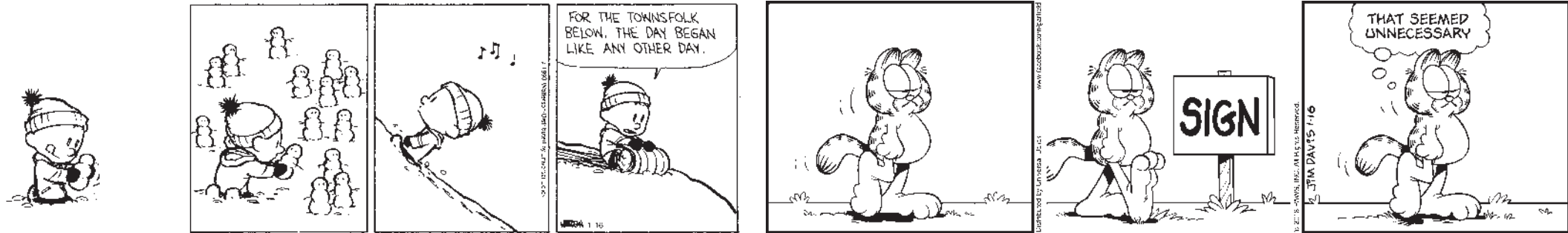


Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

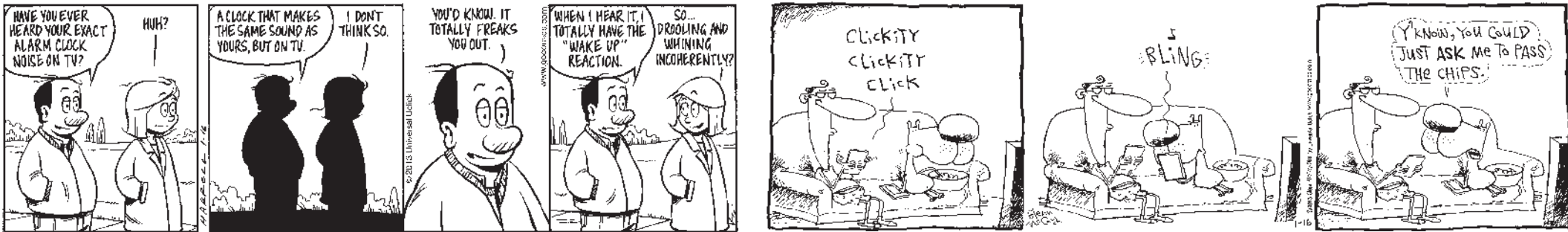
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



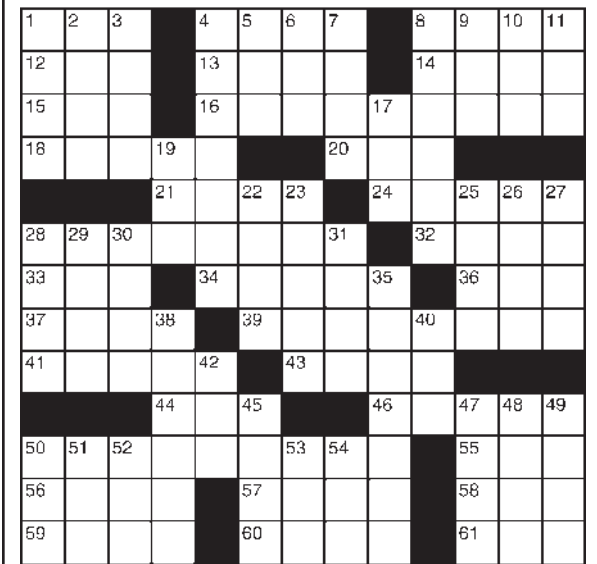
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 44 — long way 46 Fortune-tellers' matter? 8 Frizzy hairdo 12 Hockey surface 13 Andy's pal 14 Circulate 15 Historic time 16 Twist 18 "Aida" composer 20 Expert 21 Food 24 Poolroom 28 Bring together 32 Hammer or sickle 33 Inseparable 34 Casino machines 36 "Kitchy—" 37 Young female 39 Remorseful 41 Milk-maid's place 43 Analgesic target

DOWN 1 Ukraine's capital 2 Farm measure 3 Once around the sun 4 Salon treatments 5 I love, to Livy 6 Charged bit 7 Answer an invite 8 Showing buoyancy 9 Winter bug 10 Deteriorate 11 Have bills 17 Sphere 19 Dict info 22 Body powder 23 Urban hangout 25 Mischievous Norse god

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Trent Ford, 34; Kate Moss, 39; Debbie Allen, 63; John Carpenter, 65.

Happy Birthday: Pursue opportunities. Step into the limelight and discuss your plans for the future. The way you embrace your goals will bring you support and interest. Change is apparent, but not all will be easily acquired, especially if it has to do with personal or domestic matters. Focus on work and protecting what you have earned. Your numbers are 2, 9, 12, 22, 26, 33, 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Enjoy life. Stop worrying about things you cannot change. A force play may affect your current status. An old friend will help you find the strength and courage to reach goals you've only talked about in the past. Embrace change. \*\*\*

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You must regroup. Taking on other people's responsibilities will be detrimental. Focus on reaching your goals and acquire a position that will give you greater freedom. Love and reputation will be key to your happiness. Don't neglect either one. \*\*\*

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put energy into getting ahead by taking care of what's expected of you. You must maintain a state of calm if you want to be taken seriously in the future. Do what you can to the best of your ability. \*\*\*\*

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Show emotions and share your thoughts and leave you standing idle in the past. It's time to make

a concerted effort to make a choice and let others scramble to fit into your plans for a change. \*\*

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't allow temptation to take over, leading to added expense or a waste of time. Be progressive and constructive in your actions and focus on ways to improve what you do and how much you can earn with the skills you have. \*\*\*\*\*

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You have options that can lead to fruitful endeavors if you keep a sound mind and realistic outlook. Social networking will pay off by connecting you to people who have something to share. Take advantage of what's being offered. \*\*\*

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Domestic matters will escalate, causing concern for how you should move forward. Make plans to visit a destination you find comforting and conducive to finding a solution you can achieve with the least amount of turmoil. Act quickly and avoid prolonged grief. \*\*\*

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A realistic approach toward situations that concern friends, relatives or your community will put you in the spotlight. Love and romance are highlighted and can help you find peace and happiness through shared accomplishments. Let your intuition guide you. \*\*\*\*\*

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will lack practicality due to emotional deception and unrealistic expectations. Step back and look at the big picture and you will know what's required of you in order to make your life better at home or at work. \*\*

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take time out to revisit an old idea or project you left unfinished. Reestablishing a friendship with someone you find inspiring will lead to future options that can increase your earning potential. Reveal your true feelings and prosper. \*\*\*\*

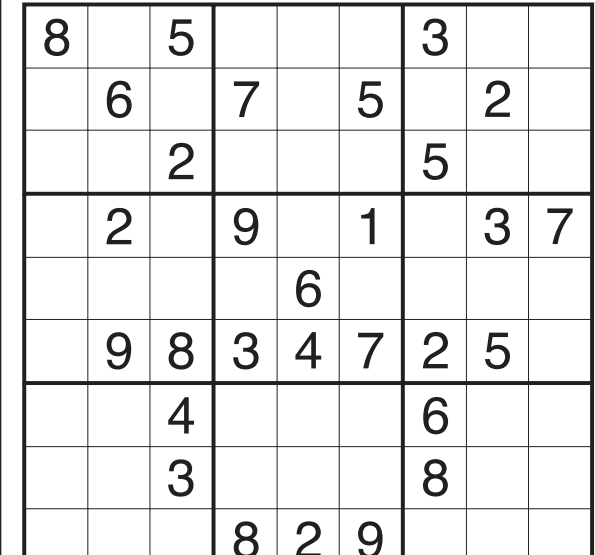
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Past experiences will help you make a good judgment call now. You can offer an ultimatum to someone you feel has taken advantage of you. Fixing old problems will ensure that you can continue down a path that leads to a better lifestyle. \*\*\*

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put greater emphasis on communication and working with institutions, government agencies or any other organization that can benefit you with grants, loans or intellectual assistance. Participating in humanitarian causes or volunteering your services will enhance your love life. \*\*\*

Birthday Baby: You are popular, unique and imaginative. You strive for reform and justice. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ http://bit.ly/exhoro and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

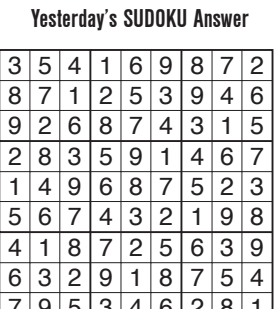
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/16 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.



WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NOW IN BLACK AND WHITE Solution: 9 letters

T P L R T J E S I R N U S D T  
B H A A U H N A T T A H N A M  
F I E N S S E N D A M K O N U  
N R G S D T S A M U R A I G T  
G L A S E O R T N P S N T E C  
E N Y N L V R A H O S E A R N  
T O E O K E E A D G S Y T E A  
O S N E U E E N S A I R C U S  
P F O G E N N P T B A L E H P  
H E M L N I G S O H O R P P O  
A R E K E I B O T D S X X B N  
T A E C T H K M A E L E E U E  
I T T N I S T L O C I R A L L  
V U T C N C I T I Z E N O L E  
B U N N Y I G A M E T I H W H

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Big Sleep, Book, Bull, Bunny, Citizen, Colt, Danger, Expectations, Frankenstein, Game, Great, Helene, Inner, Jungle, Kane, King, Kong, La Dolce, La Strada, Lights, Madness, Manhattan, Meet, Money, Nosferatu, Pandora's Box, Persona, Psycho, Rain, Samurai, Sanctum, Setup, Sunrise, The Lost, The Seventh Seal, Top Hat, Vita, White, World, Young, Zombie  
Yesterday's Answer: Blankets  
From THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD Volume 46, #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, #13, #14, #15, #16, #17, #18, #19, #20, #21, #22, #23, #24, #25, #26, #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #32, #33, #34, #35, #36, #37, #38, #39, #40, #41, #42, #43, #44, #45, #46, #47, #48, #49, #50, #51, #52, #53, #54, #55, #56, #57, #58, #59, #60, #61, #62, #63, #64, #65, #66, #67, #68, #69, #70, #71, #72, #73, #74, #75, #76, #77, #78, #79, #80, #81, #82, #83, #84, #85, #86, #87, #88, #89, #90, #91, #92, #93, #94, #95, #96, #97, #98, #99, #100, #101, #102, #103, #104, #105, #106, #107, #108, #109, #110, #111, #112, #113, #114, #115, #116, #117, #118, #119, #120, #121, #122, #123, #124, #125, #126, #127, #128, #129, #130, #131, #132, #133, #134, #135, #136, #137, #138, #139, #140, #141, #142, #143, #144, #145, #146, #147, #148, #149, #150, #151, #152, #153, #154, #155, #156, #157, #158, #159, #160, #161, #162, #163, #164, #165, #166, #167, #168, #169, #170, #171, #172, #173, #174, #175, #176, #177, #178, 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# CLASSIFIED ADS



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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

**WESTERN SALES TRADING COMPANY has an opening for:**

**One (1) Sales Manager**

*Minimum qualifications:* Two year vocational degree (may be foreign equivalent); two years experience in sales and marketing, and able to read, write and speak Japanese sufficient to negotiate contracts and communicate with Japanese speaking customers.

*Duties:* Work with corporate officers in planning, formulating and establishing a business plan and sales strategy to attain company's sales goals and objectives. Manage and direct activities of sales personnel and ensure that company's sales techniques and price guidelines are being followed. Established and maintain business relationships with customers and negotiate sales contracts. Resolve any customer concerns or complaints regarding sales and service. Maintain records of all sales activities; monitor customer preferences to determine focus of sales efforts; and analyze pricing points and volume in order to make necessary modifications in sales strategy to improve wholesale sales and keep the company competitive. Plan and direct promotional activities and opportunities for expansion of company's product lines and market areas.

If interested, send resume to Western Sales Trading Company by email to [wstcospn@pticom.com](mailto:wstcospn@pticom.com) or by fax at 670-322-9408. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within three days of hire.

**HOFSCHEIDER ENGINEERING, LLC.**  
Job Vacancy Announcement

One (1) Project Manager  
Experience: 10 years or more

- Demonstrated ability to apply FHWA/FAA/IBC/ASTM/AASHTO/ACI design and regulatory requirements as they apply to construction projects
- Knowledge of construction methods, scheduling and estimating
- Strong background in project and construction management and client relations
- Proficient in MS Office, MS Project, Prolog Manager & Converge

One (1) Project Engineer  
Experience: 7 years or more,

- Demonstrated ability to apply FHWA/FAA/EPA/IBC/ASTM/AASHTO/ACI design and regulatory requirements as they apply to design and construction projects
- Proficient in AutoCAD, AutoCAD Civil 3D, Stormwater Analysts Software, MS Office, MS Project, Prolog Manager & Converge

One (1) AutoCAD Operator  
Experience: 5 years or more

- Proficient in AutoCAD, MS Office, Prolog Manager & Converge; candidate must have demonstrated ability to prepare civil and structural drawings with supervision from responsible design staff

One (1) Engineering & Administrative Assistant  
Experience: 7 years or more,

- Assist Principal Engineer with scheduling of company resources and ability to prepare balanced schedules utilizing staff resources against company's project portfolio; Self-motivated and able to prepare documents in support of Statement of Qualifications and in response to Request for Proposals
- Assist Principal Engineer with project, contract, & risk management issues by performing quality assurance on projects and contracts
- Assist Office Manager with administrative matters
- Familiarity with accounting procedure and able to assist External Accountant in the preparation of Audits such as but not limited to determination of Direct and Indirect Cost
- Competent knowledge and ability to prepare payroll, financial statement, Local and Federal Tax procedures and documents.

Interested applicants may submit their resume to Hofschneider Engineering, LLC  
2nd Flr. JET Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950.  
**Deadline of Submission: January 15, 2013**  
No phone calls and walk-in interview

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**AC PACIFIC LLC, DBA STAR SANDS**  
Is an Equal Opportunity Employer

**WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING POSITIVE, ENERGETIC AND OUTGOING INDIVIDUALS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS.**

**5 SALE ASSOCIATES** – Applicants must have work experience in retail sales, cash handling and using sales systems. Must have excellent communication skills (orals and written) Must have excellent customer service skills. Ability to speak other languages such as Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Russian is a plus but not required, Must be able to work on weekends and holidays.

**1 SYSTEM/NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR** – Applicants must have proficient knowledge in Networking/Active Directory, Sonic wall devices - VPN Configuration / Tunneling, Firewall Policies and Rules, Port Programming, Microsoft Dynamic AX 2012, SQL Server 2008 R2, Windows server 2008 Flat form, Visual Studio 2010, NET working Programming, C# Programming, VOIP Structure, In depth knowledge in ERP Administration, Computer and IT Hardware Configuration, Must be able to work flexible hours including weekends and holidays.

**NO PHONE CALL**

In order to apply for a job at Star Sands Plaza, Please visit our website <http://www.starsandsplaza.com> And follow the instruction. If you do not have access to computer/Internet, Employment Applications are available at Star Sands Plaza office.

### EMPLOYMENT

- 1 Bookkeeper \$5.55/hr. Pls. email [ahcg.acctg@gmail.com](mailto:ahcg.acctg@gmail.com). August Healthcare Group, LLC tel 233-4582
- 1 General Manager: \$1,200-1,760/mo. Bachelor's degree & 4 yrs experience required. Must report to overseas owner in Korean. Email resume to [jnd@hanmisaipan.com](mailto:jnd@hanmisaipan.com).
- 1 Farmer, 2 year aquaculture experience preferred. Please call 989-1170 or submit resume to Matsumoto Trust at P.O. Box 5057 CHRB Saipan, MP 96950.

1 Cook (Korean cuisine): \$5.55/hr. Must be a proficient cook of Korean cuisine. At least 2 years' professional cooking experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to [chinaybian@hanmisaipan.com](mailto:chinaybian@hanmisaipan.com).

1 Waiter/Waitress: \$5.55/hr. At least 1 year experience as Waiter/Waitress in Korean cuisine restaurant is required. Must be able to receive orders and answer customer questions in Korean, Chinese and Japanese languages. Email resume to [chinaybian@hanmisaipan.com](mailto:chinaybian@hanmisaipan.com).

(13) Mason, (5) Carpenter, (1) Plumber, 5 years experience. Email resume to [landmark@pticom.com](mailto:landmark@pticom.com)

**iPod & iPhone Repair**

We now unlock iPhone's and any Smart Phones around the world

Please call **233-5641**

Open: Monday-Saturday 9:00am - 9:00pm

**Job Vacancy Announcement**

**3 General Helper.** Minimum of 5 years experience. Willing to work on flexible time. \$ 5.55/hr

**4 Beautician** (All Around). \$ 5.55/hr

Bespen Development Corp.  
dba Carefree Services / Exquisite Beauty Salon  
Please contact Rudy at 233-6927

### FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. \$450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$250/mo. Pls. visit our website [www.saipan-properties.com](http://www.saipan-properties.com). Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$450-\$550/mo. Pls. visit our website [www.saipan-properties.com](http://www.saipan-properties.com). Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$600/mo. Pls. visit our website [www.saipan-properties.com](http://www.saipan-properties.com). Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$550. Pls. visit our website [www.saipan-properties.com](http://www.saipan-properties.com). Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

**MAKE-A-WISH®**

Visit us at 885 S. Marine Dr.,  
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913  
Tel: (671) 648-WISH • Fax: (671) 648-5293  
Email: [makeawish@makeawish.org](mailto:makeawish@makeawish.org)  
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**1 – HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC**  
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of (5) years work related experience. Must have Knowledge in overhauling and troubleshooting of heavy equipment. Able to diagnose, repair or replace damaged or worn parts of equipment, observe and test the operation of equipment to diagnose malfunction using testing devices.

**1 – AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRICIAN**  
High school diploma with minimum of (5) years work related experience. Must be able to diagnose and identify electronic computer components using test instruments. Ability to analyze, troubleshoot and install electronic or programmable controllers, motor starters. Rewind electric motors, transformers and generators. Perform operational, maintenance or testing procedures for electronic components, equipment or systems.

**1 – ARCHITECT**  
Applicant must possess college diploma with (8) years minimum experience as architect. Must have knowledge to prepare detailed architectural and structural drawings of civil engineering works or projects with strong computer knowledge and experience in preparing as-built and shop drawings using computer-assisted drafting (CAD) equipment and software. Ability to analyze building codes, by-laws, space and site requirements.

**1 – PAINTER**  
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of (5) years work related experience. Must have knowledge to apply paint, stain, varnish, enamel, or other finishes to equipment, buildings, bridges, or other structures, using brushes, spray guns, or rollers. Ability to mix and match colors of paint, stain, or varnish with oil or thinning and drying additives to obtain desired colors and consistencies.

**1 – WELDER**  
Must have skills in welding equipment such as shielded metal arc and gas metal arc to weld components together to form repair and fabricate products. Ability to read lay outs and blue prints, follow work orders to weld components in flat, vertical or overhead positions. Minimum of (5) years work related experience.

Interested qualified applicants can submit their resume and latest police clearance via e-mail to [saipan@aicconstruction.com](mailto:saipan@aicconstruction.com) or mail to AIC Marianas, Inc., PMB 564 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950.

Closing date: January 18, 2013

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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**Job Vacancy Announcement****1 - CATV PLANT - BROAD BAND TECHNICIAN.  
1 - CATV PLANT HEADEND/BENCH TECHNICIAN.**

Interested applicants may submit your application to  
CNMI Cable Vision, LLC, PO Box 501298, Saipan,  
MP 96950. Tel. 235-4628 or email  
mcv.service@saipan.com

**China Yanbian Foreign Eco. And Tech.  
Cooperation Corporation Seoul One Restaurant****Job Vacancy Announcement**

- (1) Korean Cook**
- Must have at least 3 to 4 work experience
  - Knowledge in speaking in Korean preferred
  - Willing to work during holidays

Send resume to sang80@gmail.com

**QQ Rent A Car  
For Immediate Hiring****(1) Accountant**

- must have 2 years experience

Please submit resume to our Garapan Office.  
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE  
U.S. Citizens are priority in hiring

**FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE  
ACCOUNTANT/  
BOOKKEEPER**

Submit resume to:  
**International Insurance Agency**  
or call Tel. Nos. 235-5555 \* 235-8888

**Job Vacancy Announcement****Accountant**

- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting
- 5 years continued accounting experience
- Experience with Shipping Company is preferred
- Knowledge of Federal, CNMI Tax Laws & Port Tariffs
- Have the ability to prepare Financial Reports
- Proficient in MS Office and Accounting Software
- Must have excellent communication, organizational & self management skills.

Interested applicants may submit their resume at:  
Inchape Shipping Services (Guam) LLC  
1st Floor Port of Saipan Building  
Puerto Rico, Saipan MP 96950

**POLARIS DEVELOPMENT CORP.  
is looking for:****(3) General Maintenance**  
Must have at least 2 years experience

Any applicant tentatively selected for this position is required to submit and pass a drug test screening prior to employment.

**APPLY IN PERSON AND  
BRING RESUME**

For more info please call Ms. Jojo Faller at 235-5598, 235-5599 or 483-1971.

**VACANCY**

J.C. Tenorio Ent, Inc., is currently seeking for qualified candidates to fill the following position

**COOK**

Please apply in person at the  
J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.  
Human Resources Office  
Joeten Center, Susupe

(NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE)

**VACANCY**

Marianas Management Corporation is currently seeking for qualified candidates to fill the following position

**HVAC-R**

Qualification: Must have knowledge of Walk-In- Freezer/Chiller and AC System

Please apply in person at the J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. Human Resources Office Joeten Center, Susupe

Marianas Management Corporation is an equal opportunity employer

(NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE)

**AM MACHINE SHOP**

Job Vacancy Announcement

**(3) MACHINIST  
(1) MECHANIC**

Please call telephone # 323-0102  
and look for Adonis Santos

**Marianas Baptist Academy**

PO Box 500904 Saipan, MP 96950

**Job Vacancy Announcement****Accountant**

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting at least 5 years work experience.

Please submit your resume at MBA  
Tel No. 234-6508

**Arctic Circle Air Services**

has immediate opening for the following positions:

**CHECK-IN COUNTER AGENT  
BAGGAGE HANDLER  
ACCOUNTANT  
HR MANAGER**

Candidates must have

- HS diploma
- ability to use IBM-compatible computer
- working knowledge of MS Word & Excel
- and good communication skills.

Requires drug and police clearance.  
The letter and resume will be send via email to:  
**gojmsh@gmail.com**

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY****HEALTH PLAN  
COORDINATOR**

- 8 or more years of actual experience as a health plan coordinator responsible for the administration of a health insurance business
- Experience with medical claims processing and adjudication
- Experience in conducting underwriting review analysis for small and large group business
- Experience in handling medical provider issues related to contractual agreements and fee schedule reimbursement
- Experience in negotiating provider agreements with medical providers
- Experience in administering and managing utilization review cases for both inpatient and outpatient cases
- Strong written communication skills and the ability to work independently
- Basic computer skills with strong organizational time management skills
- Must possess strong negotiation skills with both commercial clients and medical providers
- Capable of compiling and submitting weekly, monthly and annual production reports for management review.
- Nursing Degree and/or medical background is required.
- Salary based on experience.

Benefits include: Sick leave, paid vacation, Holiday pay, employee discounts, medical, dental and group life insurance. Please apply in person at: Moylans Insurance office located on Beach Road in Garapan. Apply no later than 5PM, January 25, 2013.



*Moylan's Insurance Is an Equal Opportunity Employer*

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY****EXPERIENCED COMMERCIAL  
PROPERTY & CASUALTY  
UNDERWRITER**

APPLICANT SHOULD HAVE THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum 7 years in the insurance operations.
- Sales & Marketing Experience needed.
- Engineering Degree Preferred.
- Customer Service oriented.
- Proficient knowledge and skill using MS Word, MS Excel
- Good written and oral skills.
- Ability to work under pressure and meet timelines.
- Is highly organized, keeps accurate filing system
- Must possess a valid drivers license.
- Police Clearance Required.
- Salary based on experience.

Benefits include: Sick leave, paid vacation, Holiday pay, employee discounts, medical, dental and group life insurance. Please apply in person at: Moylans Insurance office located on Beach Road in Garapan. Apply no later than 5PM, January 25, 2013.



*Moylan's Insurance Is an Equal Opportunity Employer*

**S P O R T S**

AP  
Serena Williams of the U.S. stretches for a forehand return to Romania's Edina Gallovits-Hall during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013.

**After a tumble, Serena advances**

**MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—**Serena Williams tumbled to the court and needed a medical timeout in the first set for treatment on her right ankle. Once she got up, it was all over for Edina Gallovits-Hall.

Williams routed Gallovits-Hall 6-0, 6-0 in the first round of the Australian Open on Tuesday despite the scary sequence in the first part of the match.

The No. 3-ranked Williams is favored to win the season's first major, rolling into Melbourne Park with 35 wins in her previous 36 matches, including titles at Wimbledon, the London Olympics and the U.S. Open. But the injury could be a significant setback as she seeks a third consecutive Grand Slam title.

Williams said there was pain and swelling in her ankle and X-rays were an option, but she wanted to leave any decisions about treatment for a few hours.

"I've been injured before," she said. "I've played this tournament with so many injuries and was able to come off pretty on top. So for me it's just another page and a great story to tell the grandkids one day."

Defending champion Victoria Azarenka also advanced, overcoming a wobble in the second set to beat Monica Niculescu 6-1, 6-4 on Rod Laver Arena. Andy Murray won his first match as a Grand Slam champion, beating Robin Haase of the Netherlands in straight sets.

With a packed program on the center court, Williams was playing on the second of the show courts.

The 31-year-old American

was leading 4-0 after 19 minutes when she fell awkwardly chasing a ball wide on her forehand side, putting both hands over her face.

She rolled from her back to her hands and knees, where she stayed for several minutes before she was helped to her feet. The 15-time major winner started limping before easing into a walking stride as she made her way to her court-side chair to have her already heavily taped ankle treated and then re-taped.

"I think I was really, really close to panicking because a very similar thing happened to me last year, almost on the same side, the same shot," Williams said. "So I almost panicked, and I thought, I can't do that. I just have to really remain calm and think things through."

Williams won the first point after the medical timeout, approaching the net to hit a cross-court winner, seemingly unfazed by the ankle. She hit two more forehand winners to go up 5-0, then called the trainer back to the court to adjust the taping on the ankle during the changeover. She had more treatment after winning the first set.

Williams winced slightly after jumping to hit an overhead in the third game of the second set and called the trainer out again to re-tape the ankle during the changeover, leading 3-0.

She dominated the second set despite the injury, allowing the Romanian player to win just six points.

Murray beat Haase 6-3, 6-1, 6-3 in the opening round and was asked what it felt like to play after his triumph at the U.S. Open, where he became the first British man since 1936

to win a major title.

"I can try and focus on the second part of my career now," he said.

The 25-year-old Murray seemed more at ease and relaxed than he had been in previous trips to the season's first major.

"It was a good start, nice to win in straight sets," he said. "It was the hottest day we've had for a while so the court was playing much quicker."

It's been 12 months since Murray started working with eight-time major winner Ivan Lendl, and he attributes much of the success in his breakthrough 2012 to his partnership with his new coach.

It's relaxed "in front of the cameras, yeah," Murray joked. "Behind closed doors he works me very hard."

"We've had a very good relationship so far. He's very honest, very open. He doesn't lie to you, he tells you exactly how it is and that's exactly what I needed."

In early women's matches Tuesday, 42-year-old Kimiko Date-Krumm upset No. 12-seeded Nadia Petrova of Russia 6-2, 6-0 to become the oldest woman to win a singles match at the Australian Open. Former No. 1-ranked Caroline Wozniacki won the last six games to beat Sabine Lisicki of Germany 2-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Former U.S. Open and French Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova continued her comeback from a knee injury that kept her out of the U.S. Open, ending her run of 40 consecutive majors. Also, No. 14 Maria Kirilenko had a 6-4, 6-2 win over American Vania King, and China's Peng Shuai beat Canada's Rebecca Marino 6-3, 6-0.



# Golden era for QBs, with great stories around NFL



NEW YORK

(AP)—The two kids from Northern California burst from NFL afterthought to championship contender in eerily similar fashion a decade apart.

Tom Brady and Colin Kaepernick, each playing in a conference title game this weekend, are bookends to a fortuitous moment in quarterback history. On one side are the likes of Brady, Peyton Manning and Drew Brees, still scintillating in their mid-30s.

On the other are Kaepernick, a second-year player, and the brilliant class of rookies with Andrew Luck, Robert Griffin III and Russell Wilson leading their teams to the playoffs.

Young, old and in between, the current crop of NFL quarterbacks is not only deep but dynamic and diverse.

"We're in a little bit of a boom right now. We're flowing a little bit, especially young players," Hall of Famer Steve Young said last week. "If those guys continue to develop, we'll have a period of time here, kind of a Camelot of quarterbacking."

The depth of the position shows in the other two guys joining the Patriots' Brady and the 49ers' Kaepernick in the conference championship games. Atlanta's Matt Ryan and Baltimore's Joe Flacco were first-round draft picks in 2008, and for all their successes, they're probably low on the list when fans think of the most dominant NFL quarterbacks.

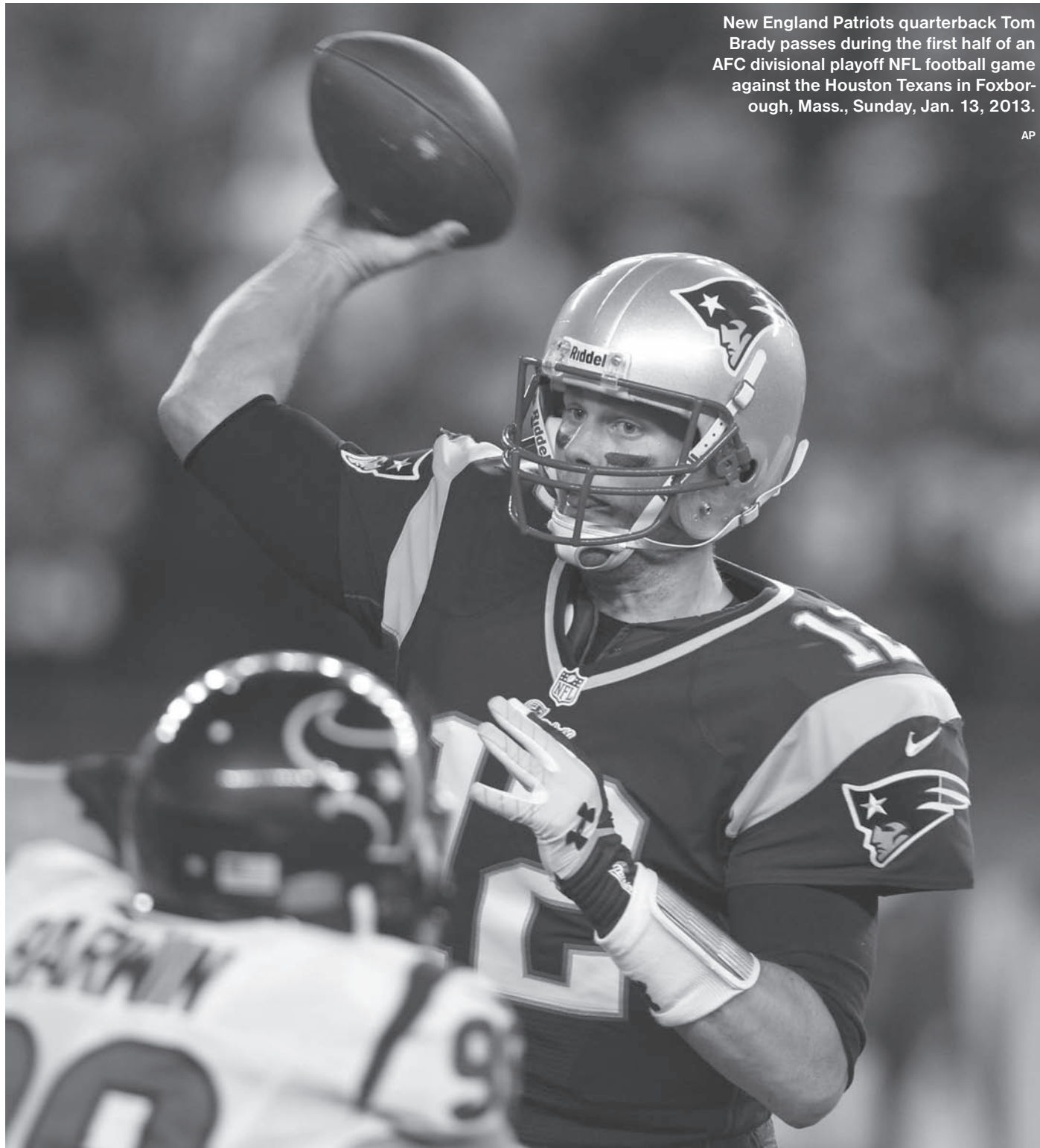
Yet here they are a win away from the Super Bowl after leading stirring comebacks that answered many doubts about each.

Quarterback has long been the glamour position of all of sports, but it seems even a bit more glamorous right now. Rule changes favor a wide-open passing game, which makes a superior quarterback more valuable. Colleges and high schools run more sophisticated offenses, and the best athletes gravitate to quarterback then develop into polished passers who happen to be able to scramble.

"I can't remember—even though this is a quarterback-driven league—as many remarkable and compelling stories on the quarterback side as you're seeing this year," CBS Sports chairman Sean McManus said.

There was that brief stretch less than 15 years ago when Trent Dilfer and Brad Johnson won Super Bowls, and it seemed perhaps championship teams didn't need a star at the position. Since then, here's the roll call of victorious quarterbacks: Brady, Ben Roethlisberger, both Manning brothers, Brees and Aaron Rodgers.

Twenty-five of the 46 Super Bowl MVPs have been quarterbacks, but now it's five of the last six. In the half-dozen years before that, four were non-QBs, includ-



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady passes during the first half of an AFC divisional playoff NFL football game against the Houston Texans in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Jan. 13, 2013.

AP

Manning, Roethlisberger, Tony Romo, Cam Newton. And then there's Tim Tebow, who may never start again as an NFL QB but is still one of the most recognizable and polarizing athletes in all of sports.

This quarterback Camelot is about more than the deep field of effective starters. The playoffs oozed with stars popular not just for their performances but their personalities and pizzazz.

"I marvel at how prepared these guys are—not only on the field, but the exposure they get off it," said Aikman, who will call the NFC title game for Fox. "Whether it's through social networks or different platforms, they are given the opportunity to talk to the press and are much more well-rounded and prepared for all that comes with the scrutiny of the position than ever before."

"If you're on Park Avenue in New York (at league headquarters), you're pretty happy with the new representatives that will be the ambassadors for the league for the years to come."

The quarterbacks in the postseason undoubtedly fascinate fans, but they do so in different ways.

"All with incredibly different kinds of stories, all with incredibly different ways of getting to the playoffs," said McManus, whose network airs next month's Super Bowl.

Nielsen/E-Poll calculates an "N-Score" to measure the endorsement potential of athletes. Peyton Manning has the top score of current QBs, but other players come out ahead in specific categories in the surveys.

In this high school yearbook of NFL quarterbacks, Brees is voted most appealing. Rodgers is the most confident, Newton the most dynamic, Griffin the most talented. Luck is considered the most intelligent and Brady the most attractive.

Their back stories sizzle. This season saw Manning return from neck surgery to lead the Broncos to the AFC's top seed and earn All-Pro honors. Brees was dealing with the fallout of the Saints' bounty scandal.

ing two defensive players.

"It ebbs and flows, no question. There's some dark times where you have two or three guys that can truly do it," said Young, Kaepernick's forerunner as a dual-threat San Francisco QB and now an ESPN analyst.

Jimmy Johnson, who won two Super Bowls with future Hall of Famer Troy Aikman as his quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys, was talking to Bill Belichick last summer about

the recent shift. Belichick has won three championships with Brady, but even as of a few years ago, both coaches believed a title was possible behind a strong defense and running game.

Not anymore, they agreed.

"Now, the only thing that matters is if you get a great quarterback," said Johnson, now a Fox commentator.

Of this year's playoff teams, the only one without great stability at quarterback was Min-

nesota. And the Vikings had a guy named Adrian Peterson.

The bottom of the standings is full of clubs with uncertainty at the position: from the Chiefs and Jaguars to the Eagles, Cardinals and Jets.

This year, 20 quarterbacks started every regular-season game, nearly two-thirds of the league. That's by far the most

since the NFL went to a 16-game season in 1978, according to STATS, four more than the

previous high.

That record partly reflects a lack of injuries, in which all those rules protecting the QB may be a factor—along with, of course, sheer luck. But it also reflects how few teams benched their quarterbacks. Most clubs are quite happy with their current situation.

For all the quarterback intrigue in the playoffs, consider the big names who didn't qualify for the postseason: Brees, Eli

## Oakland gives manager Bob Melvin 2-year extension



OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—

Bob Melvin has repeatedly described the comfort of managing right at home in the Bay Area—and Billy Beane has described the comfort in having a winning, "modern-day" manager leading the Oakland Athletics.

Melvin is staying put in the very place he wants to be well into the future.

The A's manager received a two-year contract extension Monday that takes him through the 2016 season. Later Monday, Oakland announced it had reached agreement on a

\$1 million, one-year contract with catcher George Kottaras, a raise of \$275,000.

Beane is thrilled to have a manager in place to guide the small-budget A's for years to come.

"To get an extension like this from people you respect and admire and supported you, it really makes you feel good and makes you feel better about doing your job," said Melvin, voted AL Manager of the Year after leading Oakland to a surprising West division title. "My expectations are the same as last year. We're going to compete hard and expect to win. Based on having the results

we had last year, we'll have that much more confidence coming into spring training."

Oakland became the first team in major league history to win a division or pennant after trailing by five games with less than 10 to play, sweeping three games against Texas to win the division over the Rangers.

"It's really a reflection of our commitment to Bob and Bob's commitment to us. If you know you have the right guy, there's no sense in waiting until he's got one year left," general manager Billy Beane said. "This was probably the simplest negotiation I've ever had

in my career here. That's a reflection of the relationship that Bob has with the organization. We're happy to give him this well-deserved extension. It didn't take very long. The actual writing it up took longer than the actual negotiations."

Oakland lost to Detroit 3-2 in a best-of-five AL division series. The A's ended a five-year stretch without a winning record or playoff berth, finishing 94-68.

The A's did it with a payroll of \$59.5 million—lowest in the majors—and 12 rookies. They did it with significant injuries to their starting pitchers and lost

their third baseman, Scott Sizemore, to a season-ending knee injury on the first full-squad workout of spring training. And they did it after losing right-hander Bartolo Colon to a 50-game suspension in August for a positive testosterone test, then re-signed him this winter.

The 51-year-old Melvin, a former big league catcher who grew up in Menlo Park and played at Cal, took over from the fired Bob Geren in June 2011. Melvin led the Diamondbacks to the NL West title in 2007 and also won 93 games in his rookie season with Seattle in 2003.



# Hayward lifts Jazz past slumping Heat

**SALT LAKE CITY** (AP)—LeBron James once scored 51 points against the Utah Jazz, and needed 50 on Monday night to become the youngest player to reach 20,000 for his career.

He almost got there.

James scored 32 for the Miami Heat, but the Jazz held on after nearly blowing a 21-point lead and won 104-97.

"We're trying to learn how to push a lead from 20 to 30 and close teams out, but we haven't been able to do that for whatever reason," said Jazz guard Gordon Hayward, who finished with 22 points on 8-of-13 shooting. "We need to be able to keep our foot on the gas and not be hesitant."

Dwyane Wade, who finished with 11 points on 5 of 11 shooting, did not get off the bench in the fourth quarter for the Heat.

"I don't know," Wade said. "I just always stay ready."

Miami pulled within two points on a free throw by Joel Anthony with 3:13 left, but James was called for goaltending and an offensive foul on back-to-back possessions, then missed a 3-pointer with the Heat trailing by six with 2:19 remaining.

His floater in the lane still had Miami within five with 1:25 left, but Hayward hit a 14-foot fade-away shot with 40 seconds to seal it.

The basket came after yet another offensive rebound by Paul Millsap to give the Jazz a 19-0 edge on second-chance points.

"LeBron still got his numbers, so we didn't do much to control him. But we took everybody else out of the game and kept them from getting theirs," said Millsap, who finished with 17 points, nine rebounds and two steals.

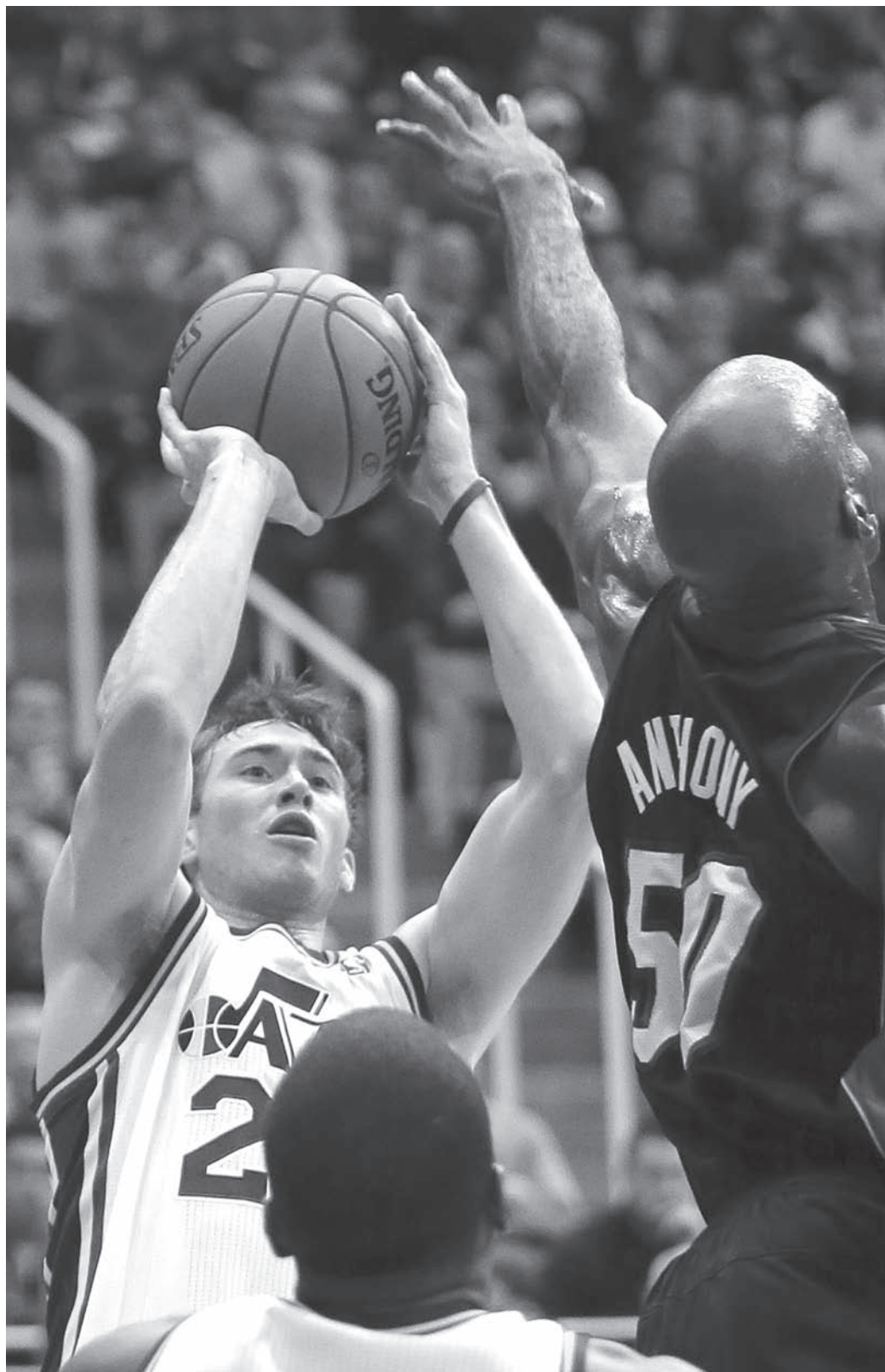
"They got no second-chance points, so that was big for us. That means we finished the defensive possessions with a rebound and that let us get out and run a little bit. We controlled the tempo."

Al Jefferson also turned in a big game after being held to just six points in a 105-89 loss in Miami on Dec. 22. He had 10 after the first quarter and finished with a team-high 23 on 8-of-14 shooting, with 11 rebounds.

## Clippers 99, Grizzlies 73

In Memphis, Reserves Jamal Crawford and Matt Barnes each scored 16 points, and the Clippers routed the Memphis Grizzlies 99-73 Monday night with Chris Paul missing his first game this season because of a bruised right kneecap.

The matchup between two of the best teams in the West wasn't close much of the way. While Paul watched from the bench, the Grizzlies were without their leading scorer: Rudy Gay was excused for his grandmother's funeral in Baltimore.



Utah Jazz guard Gordon Hayward (20) shoots as Miami Heat center Joel Anthony (50) defends in the fourth quarter during an NBA basketball game Monday, Jan. 14, 2013, in Salt Lake City.

Eric Bledsoe, starting for Paul, had 14 points, and Blake Griffin scored 10.

## Bulls 97, Hawks 58

In Chicago, Carlos Boozer had 20 points and 13 rebounds, Luol Deng scored 18 points and the Chicago Bulls held Atlanta to a franchise-low 20 points in the first half of a victory over the Hawks.

Reserve forward Mike Scott scored 10 points to lead Atlanta as none of the starters reached double figures. Josh Smith and Kyle Korver had nine points each.

Jeff Teague had a layup with 7.9 seconds left to prevent the Hawks' lowest scoring total in franchise history.

## Wizards 120, Magic 91

In Washington, Emeka Okafor had 19 points and 11 rebounds, leading six players in double figures for Washington in a victory over the Magic for its third straight win.

The Wizards were just 4-28

# Rookies are all the rage at PGA Tour opener

**HONOLULU** (AP)—Tim Clark's timing could not have been worse.

He played in the last group, closed with a 63 and still finished four shots behind. He made seven birdies over the last 11 holes—including four straight at the end—and made up only one shot on the leader. The 72-hole record at the Sony Open had stood for 12 years. Clark beat it by one shot and still had to settle for second place.

All because of a rookie.

"Yeah, I'm thinking about that," Clark with a grin. "They should maybe make these guys play somewhere else for a little bit more."

Rookies were all the rage in the first full-field event of the year on the PGA Tour, starting with Russell Henley, who made a rookie debut like no other. The 23-year-old from Georgia set or tied four records at the Sony

Open, and when he closed the victory with a fifth straight birdie on the 18th, his 24-under 256 was the second-lowest score at a 72-hole tournament in PGA Tour history.

It even impressed Johnny Miller, who called it "a performance that makes you think this guy might be the next really, really top player."

Henley had some company along the shores of Oahu.

Scott Langley began his rookie season on tour by making more than 190 feet of putts in the first round for a 62, which tied the tournament record. There had not been an opening round that low at Waialae since 1997. Langley also shares the 54-hole record at the Sony Open (17-under 193) with Henley.

And if not for Clark making a 7-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole Saturday, another rookie—Scott Gardiner of Australia—would have joined them in the final group.

before their streak, but beat Oklahoma City, Atlanta and now Orlando — all at home — to nearly double their wins total.

John Wall had 12 points and six assists in 20 minutes in his second game of the season after missing the Wizards' first 33 with a left knee injury.

Washington shot a season-best 56.1 percent, scored its most points and had its largest winning margin of the season.

## Celtics 100, Bobcats 89

In Boston, Rajon Rondo scored 17 points with 12 assists and 10 rebounds to lead the Celtics to victory over Charlotte.

It was Rondo's third triple-double of the season and the 26th of his career, including playoffs.

Paul Pierce scored 19 and Avery Bradley added 16 for Boston, which won for a season-high sixth consecutive game. Kevin Garnett, who needed 13 points to tie Patrick Ewing for 16th on the NBA's career scoring list, was 2 for 11 from the field and scored just seven points to go with his 10 rebounds.

Hakim Warrick and Ramon Sessions had 16 points apiece for the Bobcats, who lost their third straight and their 23rd in the last 25 games since opening the season 7-5.

## Mavericks 113, Timberwolves 98

In Dallas, Darren Collison led six players in double figures with 23 points and the Mavericks matched their season high with a third straight win in a victory against Minnesota.

J.J. Barea, who was injured in two previous trips to Dallas, led the Timberwolves with 21 points.

The Timberwolves finished

a 0-4 road trip that coach Rick Adelman missed for personal reasons.

O.J. Mayo and Elton Brand had 20 points each for Dallas. It was a season high for Brand. Mayo also had nine assists.

## Thunder 102, Suns 90

In Phoenix, Kevin Durant scored 27 of his 41 points in the second half and Oklahoma City became the NBA's first 30-game winner of the season with a victory over the Suns.

Russell Westbrook added 36 for the Thunder, but it was Durant who took over in his fourth 40-point game of the season, scoring 19 in the fourth quarter and falling one shy of the season-high 42 he scored two games earlier against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Oklahoma City won its fourth straight, the last three on the road to improve their NBA-best record to 30-8. Durant scored 33 Sunday night in an 87-83 win at Portland.

Shannon Brown scored 21 for the Suns. Marcin Gortat had 19 points.

## Kings 124, Cavaliers 118

In Sacramento, DeMarcus Cousins had 26 points, 14 rebounds and six assists, and the Sacramento Kings snapped a four-game losing streak with a win over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Jimmer Fredette and Cousins both scored eight points in the fourth quarter for the struggling Kings, who had allowed nearly 118 points per game during the losing streak and had three losses of 20 points or more.

Reserve Dion Waiters scored a career-high 33 points for the Cavaliers, who have lost three straight and eight of 10.

rookie season, he is likely to get into all four World Golf Championships, the PGA Championship, The Players Championship and the one tournament that he tried not to think about Sunday—the Masters.

"It's been my goal to make it to the Masters my whole life," he said.

Henley is from Macon, Ga., and used to go to the Masters each April with the twin sons of a man who had tickets.

"I remember we would walk up to the ropes and we'd touch the grass with our hands," Henley said. "I remember seeing these rolling hills of green and seeing the guys hit the shots and just being so amazed at the whole experience. The smell, the environment. And being so close to home, it was just the biggest deal for me to get to go."

It's easy to get caught up in the rookies after just one week, and Henley knows that from experience.



# No tuneup for Pacquiao, Roach wants Marquez



If Freddie Roach had his way, there's no need for Manny Pacquiao to go through a tuneup fight in April.

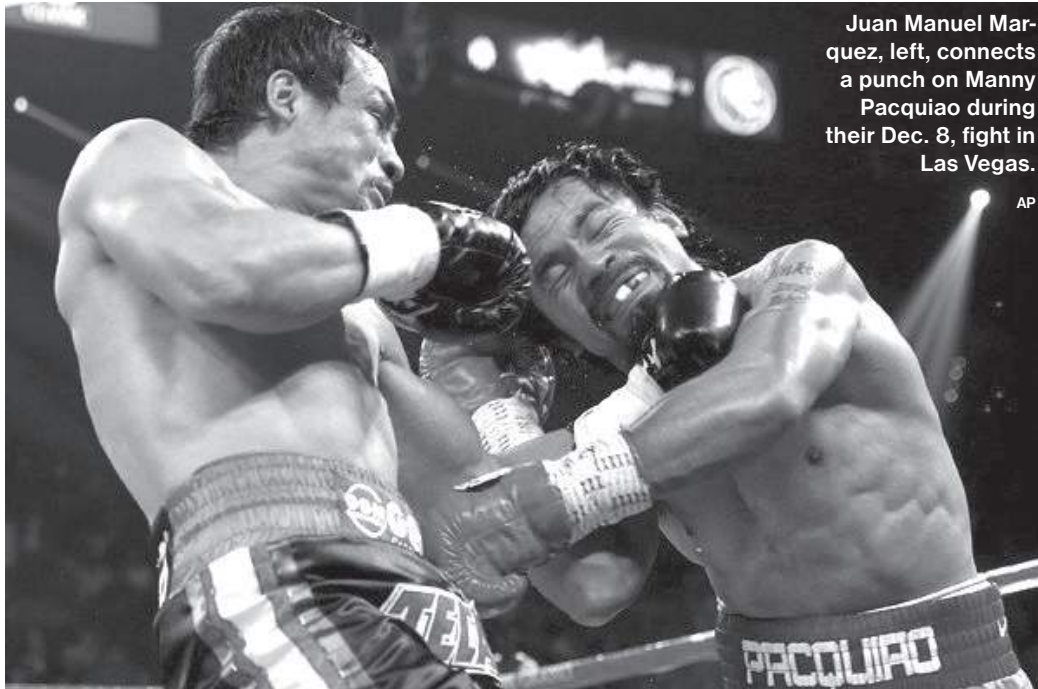
The Hall of Fame trainer wants Pacquiao to tangle with Juan Manuel Marquez right away in September.

Though aware that negotiations are underway for Pacquiao to fight either on April 13 or April 20 outside the United States, Roach told fighthub.tv that he would prefer that Pacquiao skip the bout and prepare for a grudge rematch with Marquez instead.

"I don't really want the tune-up fight," Roach said. "I would rather just go straight into the fifth fight (with Marquez)."

In their fourth bout last Dec. 8, Marquez caught Pacquiao with a right straight coming in and knocked out the Filipino eight-division world champion cold with one second to go in the sixth round.

Pacquiao later told Roach



Juan Manuel Marquez, left, connects a punch on Manny Pacquiao during their Dec. 8, fight in Las Vegas.

AP

his desire to fight Marquez one more time.

After being cleared of head injuries, however, Pacquiao is pining for an early return and has given his adviser, Mike Koncz,

the signal to seek a fight through Top Rank Promotions.

In a television interview on Sunday, Koncz said nine names—among them, Timothy Bradley, Vyacheslav Senchenko,

Jessie Vargas—are being considered for Pacquiao's return fight which could be held in Macau, Singapore or Abu Dhabi for "lesser tax" purposes.

The unbeaten Vargas (21-0

with nine knockouts) and former WBA world titlist Senchenko (33-1 with 22 knockouts) are strong contenders to face the eight-division world champion when he tries to rebound from a sixth round knockout he suffered against Marquez.

The 23-year-old Vargas, a tall welterweight at 5-foot-11, should have the inside track over Senchenko by virtue of his being under Top Rank's stable of fighters.

Already 35, the 5-foot-10 Senchenko's career got a lift last October when he stopped Ricky Hatton with a liver shot in the ninth round, sending the Briton into permanent retirement.

Pacquiao made Hatton quit boxing with a debilitating second round knockout in 2008.

Though the original plan of Top Rank honcho Bob Arum was for Pacquiao to meet Marquez

for the fifth time in September, the congressman from Sarangani Province, through his adviser Michael Koncz, relayed his desire to fight twice this year.

Tasked to find a suitable opponent for Pacquiao is Top Rank matchmaker Bruce Tampler.

Owing to the stiff taxes he'll have to pay if he fights again in the United States, the Pacquiao camp, with the blessing of Top Rank president Tod Duboef, is exploring the viability of staging Pacquiao's next fight in Asia (Singapore, Macau or Dubai).

Other names prominently mentioned as possible Pacquiao foes are Timothy Bradley, Brandon Rios and Robert Guerrero.

Bradley, who got the decision but not the recognition when he tangled with Pacquiao last June, and Rios, who stopped Mike Alvarado in a brutal war last October, are both with Top Rank.

## Bird Island January Classic MTB Race this Sunday



Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation

will kick off the 2013 season this Sunday with the staging of the Bird Island January Classic XC MTB Race.

The first race of the season will have three courses: long, medium, and easy (for kids). The longest course for the weekend race will have bikers leaving Bird Island Lookout for Calavera road, around the back side to Radar via the one million gallon tank. Bikers will then pedal along the back road of the Marianas Country Club golf course before heading



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

A participant in last year's Tagaman Triathlon heads to the Bird Island Lookout, which will be the start/finish line of this weekend's MTB race.

to Kimikaze and Autobahn and back to the Bird Island Lookout.

For the medium course, bikers will go straight to Autobahn from the Bird Island Lookout and then head to Santa Clause Lane and Banzai Trail before returning to the starting line (via a uphill climb at the elbow road). For the easy course, riders will also go to Santa Clause Lane from the Bird Island Lookout and head to the landfill before returning to the starting line.

Registration will begin at 6am, while the race will start at 7am. Entry fees for adult bikers are \$10 and \$5 for U12 riders. (Saipan Tribune)

## RAYS

From Page 28

edge early on. As expected, Allen Yu carried most of the load for Eucon with his 11 points in the opening canto.

Yu added 9 more markers in the second quarter, but received hardly any support, and worse the Blazers suffered a defensive breakdown, allowing the Manta Rays to shoot a 44-26 separation at the break.

Jaymark De Guzman led Southern's surge with his 10 points and a number of donors delivered some spoils.

Yu began to slow down in the final half, but still managed to

outscore his entire supporting cast with 7 more markers in the third period.

It was clear sailing for the Manta Rays in the third, as De Guzman and Emerson Fera teamed up for 11 points and lifted Southern to a daunting 65-39 advantage.

Southern went on the break the century mark in the last minute of regulation. Bryl Alegre accumulated 13 points for the Mantas in garbage time and ended up one-upping Fera, with a team-high of 21, while Blazers' Yu topped the box score with 33.

In the junior pairing, Zeyue Lin lit the wick for Agape in the opening period with his 9 points

and drew support from Tao Yang for their 16-5 lead.

The Torchbearers pressed on to a 27-11 margin at the half, as Southern's engine stalled for a second time.

Agape's defense held true after intermission as its lead grew to 34-16, heading into the final stanza, where Lin and Yang added 4 points apiece to their totals to bring home the goods. Lin finished with a game-high 16, while Tyler Palacios fronted the Jr. Manta Rays with 9.

Meanwhile, MHS takes on Kagman High School in today's triple feature. The Dolphins and Ayuyus play at 6:45pm, after MISO's freshmen division match at 4pm and junior varsity

game at 5:30pm.

## Junior Varsity

**Agape Christian School 42** – Ze Lin 16, Yang 13, Puno 7, Me Li 2, Mi Li 2, Tran 2.

**SSHS 26** – Palacios 9, Zh Lin 4, Kintaro 4, Borromeo 3, Raquipo 2, Ferrer 2, Acopiado 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 16-5, 27-11, 34-16, 42-26.

## Varsity

**SSHS 102** – Alegre 21, Fera 20, Aranda 17, De Guzman 17, Villagomez 7, Villanueva 7, Javier III 6, Mariano 5, Flores 2.

**Eucon 56** – Yu 33, Zhou 9, Ren 8, Wang 4, T. Li 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 18-15, 44-26, 65-39, 102-56.

## LOWER

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ages 13-18 years old, and \$25 for participants in the 19 and older age group.

Registration forms for the event are also available at the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) office in San Jose. For an additional \$10, late registration can be made up

until 5:30am on race day, with the race beginning at 6:30am. Walkers are welcomed to participate in the 10K short course.

"For the convenience of participants, this year we have reduced registration fees and also made applications available at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com)," MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas said. "Although we will ac-

cept registration up until race day, we encourage everyone to meet the early bird registration deadline and register by Thursday, Jan. 24."

Awards will be presented for the Top 3 finishers in the male and female divisions. All participants will receive a finisher's t-shirt, certificate of participation, Marianas Coffee, and an invitation to the awards banquet following the

race at the Micro Beach Pavilion at 11:30am.

Race co-sponsors included Marianas Coffee Company, the KFC Triathlon Club Japan, TEAM PDI, and Northern Marianas Athletics. For more information on the Marianas Coffee Trail Run, contact Ed Diaz at the MVA at telephone 670- 664-3200/1 or via email at [ediaz@mymarianas.com](mailto:ediaz@mymarianas.com). (Saipan Tribune)

## RECORDS

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record of 1:13.80 made on May 25, 2012. The Tsunami Saipan swimmer then picked up where she left off, posting another record in her last event for the meet—the 200m backstroke. She completed the 200m backstroke in 2:49.27, about eight seconds faster than her old mark of 2:57.03, which was also logged on May 25, 2012 in Guam.

Duplicating Tammy's strong finish was Yanai, who joined Kimura in the last event of the meet—the 200m breaststroke. Yanai timed in at 2:39.65, smashing the eight-year-old

mark of Justin Pierce. The former Saipan Swim Club member clocked in at 2:42.35 on May 19, 1996.

Meanwhile, the complete results of NMISF's meet will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Thursday edition.

The meet featured 13 events for SSC and Tsunami Saipan swimmers and according to NMISF, it was designed to encourage maximum participating, provide an educational experience, enhance physical and mental conditioning, and develop a rich base of swimming talent. The federation added SSC and Tsunami Saipan joined forces in recruiting volunteer parents in helping officiate the meet. (Saipan Tribune)

## 2 WORLD

From Page 28

association will meet before the month ends to elect its officials for 2013 and discuss details of the CNMI's participation to the two world championship events.

Rangamar also included in NMA's calendar of events other off-island competitions where CNMI athletes are invited to join. The list includes the Oceania Area Championships in June, Australian Junior Cham-

pionships in March, and Melbourne IAAF World Challenge in April.

For the local events, NMA listed the PSS/McDonald's All Schools Meet trials in March and April, the Marianas Athletics Carnival, CNMI National Championships, and PSS/McDonald's All Schools Meet, which are also set for May, the All Schools Cross-Country Series in September and October, the Turkey Trot Run in November, and the Christmas Island Relay in December. (Saipan Tribune)

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
EASTERN CONFERENCE					Southwest Division				
Atlantic Division					San Antonio	29	11	.725	—
W	L	Pct	GB		Memphis	24	12	.667	3
New York	24	13	.649	—	Houston	21	17	.553	7
Brooklyn	22	15	.595	2	Dallas	16	23	.410	12 1/2
Boston	20	17	.541	4	New Orleans	11	26	.297	16 1/2
Philadelphia	16	22	.421	8 1/2					
Toronto	14	23	.378	10	Northwest Division				
Southeast Division					Oklahoma City	30	8	.789	—
Miami	24	12	.667	—	Denver	23	16	.590	7 1/2
Atlanta	21	16	.568	3 1/2	Portland	20	17	.541	9 1/2
Orlando	13	24	.351	11 1/2	Utah	21	19	.525	10
Charlotte	9	28	.243	15 1/2	Minnesota	16	19	.457	12 1/2
Washington	7	28	.200	16 1/2					
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Indiana	23	15	.605	—	L.A. Clippers	29	9	.763	—
Chicago	21	15	.583	1	Golden State	23	13	.639	5
Milwaukee	19	17	.528	3	L.A. Lakers	16	21	.432	12 1/2
Detroit	14	24	.368	9	Sacramento	14	24	.368	15
Cleveland	9	31	.225	15	Phoenix	13	27	.325	17

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# Team Four vs Swerve in Kanoa Resort Caging Finals



Team Four's Rachel Abrams drives strong to the basket against two Team Swerve defenders during their title game in the 2012 Kanoa Resort Christmas Basketball Tournament held early this month at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



Team Four's Kimmy Ocampo goes for a finger roll on a fastbreak play.



Swerve's Karleen Reyes stretches for a layup.



Team Four's Denise Samson uses the board for an uncontested shot.



Two Swerve players (in blue top) battle a Team Four player for the loose ball.



Team Four's Jeralyn Castillo takes off for a layup.



Swerve's Friendly Joy Pena pulls up for a shot.



Swerve's Lily Williams, right, wards off her defender.



Swerve's Nicole Lebria loses her dribble.



Swerve's Jasmine Che tries to muscle her way in the paint.



After a  
tumble,  
Serena  
advances

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Golden era  
for QBs,  
with great  
stories

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28 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Records fall in NMISF meet



Kaito Yanai races in the 200m breaststroke event in the NMISF meet held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



Miku Tammy gets ready for the start of the 200m backstroke event in the NMISF meet held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

**M**iku Tammy and Kaito Yanai had record-breaking swims in the NMISF Swim Meet held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



Tammy reset four CNMI age group marks in the girls 9 to 10 division, while Yanai posted three new records in the boys 13 to 14 category. Both swimmers are from Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center.

The 10-year-old Tammy recorded her first age group mark right at the opening of the weekend meet, as she timed in at 33.16 seconds in the 50m butterfly race. Incidentally, Tammy owned the previous age group record in the 50m butterfly, as she clocked in at 35.61 seconds on May 26, 2012 during the 2012 Guam Championships in Hagatna.

The Tsunami Saipan bet then got her second record in the morning session via the 400m freestyle race where she submitted 5:13.53. Tammy's time was more than 30 seconds faster than the old age group mark (5:43.69), which she also owned and logged on Dec. 3, 2011.

One more record fell in the morning session of the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation-hosted event with Yanai setting a new mark in the 100m breaststroke event in the 13 to 14 age group. The 13-year-old swimmer clocked in at 1:15.59 in his new age group, eclipsing the four-year mark of Kai Staal, who timed in at 1:15.77 on Feb. 6, 2009.

Yanai then had his second entry to the 13 to 14 age group record book after posting 35.10 seconds in the 50m breaststroke race in the afternoon competition. He surpassed the record of fellow Tsunami Saipan swimmer Kensuke Kimura, who timed in at 35.18 seconds on Oct. 2, 2010.

Tammy also swam in the afternoon session and her 1:08.14 in the 100m freestyle was more than five seconds better than her previous

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## Rays, Torchbearers triumph in MISO caging

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**MISO** Saipan Southern High School's Manta Rays and Agape Christian School's Torchbearers recorded sound wins in their separate games in the 2012-2013 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League last Monday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Manta Rays devoured the Eucon International School Blazers (0-2), 102-56, in their season debut in the varsity division, while the ACS Torchbearers evened their card to 1-1 after toppling Saipan Southern in the junior varsity match, 42-26.

In the varsity tiff, Southern worked the ball around and had six different players scoring in the first quarter to take a 18-15

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Saipan Southern High School's Paul Mariano pulls up for a floater in transition against Eucon International School defenders during their varsity game in the MISO caging last Monday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

## 2 world championships await CNMI tracksters

Northern Marianas Athletics has released its 2013 calendar of events that includes two world championships competitions.

NMA is invited to the 8th IAAF World Youth Championships, which will run from July 10 to 14 at the RSC Olimpiyskiy in Donetsk, Ukraine. The youth championship is held every two years with runner Reylenn Saping the latest CNMI athlete to join the prestigious event previously held at the Stadium Lille Métropole in Lille, France, in 2011. Saping clocked in at 14.25 seconds in the 100m run to duplicate her personal best time (electronic).

NMA is expected to name its representative to the world championships in Ukraine in May after the All Schools Championships, which is one of the highlights in the association's schedule of events, showcasing the Common-

wealth's healthy pool of U18 athletes.

Another major event NMA is looking forward this year is the 14th IAAF World Championships, which will take place at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, Russia, from Aug. 10 to 18.

The Commonwealth had two representatives in the previous world championships with Yvonne Bennett competing in the 100m run and Orrin Pharmin joining the 100m hurdles. Bennett submitted 12.78 seconds in the 100m preliminary race to finish fifth on Heat 5, just one notch away from moving into the second round of the sprints. Pharmin had a PBT in the 100m hurdles after tallying 12.60 seconds.

NMA's Elias Rangamar, in a brief interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, said the

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## Lower entry fees for Marianas Coffee Trail



Four runners make their way to the finish line of last year's 5th Marianas Coffee Trail Run at the American Memorial Park.



Runners and walkers interested in joining the 6th Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run on Jan. 26 will be paying reduced fees and can now download an application at the official website of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

Applications are linked under the Events Calendar for the event date.

The Marianas Coffee Trail Run features a 15K trail run

and a 10K short course from the beach at the American Memorial Park in Garapan to the top of Mt. Tapochao, the peak of the mountain range originating in the Marianas Trench. The course boasts some of the most picturesque views of Saipan and traverses wild coffee plantations of the Japanese colonial period and the newer plantations of the Marianas Coffee Co.

Early bird registration fees by Jan. 24 are \$10 for children ages 12 and under, \$15 for athletes

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